

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
8 August 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session

Item 121 of the provisional agenda*

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

United Nations Office for Partnerships**Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 and 53/475, wherein the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. It supplements the information contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/53/700 and Add.1, A/54/664 and Add.1-3, A/55/763 and Corr.1, A/57/133, A/58/173, A/59/170, A/60/327, A/61/189 and A/62/220).

The present report is the second annual progress report on the United Nations Office for Partnerships, which was established to manage the increasing demand from non-State actors for innovative and stronger engagement with the United Nations and serves the United Nations in three integrated areas:

- (a) As the gateway and facilitator for new alliances and partnerships for the United Nations system with non-State actors;
- (b) As the high-level interface with the United Nations Foundation through the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) management of grants and related activities;
- (c) Through the United Nations Democracy Fund, for building, promoting and strengthening democracy throughout the world in partnership with civil society

The United Nations Office for Partnerships complements the innovative partnerships fostered by the United Nations Foundation by providing partnership advisory services and outreach to the United Nations system, the private sector, foundations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and philanthropists.

* A/63/150.



Pursuant to the agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation, the Secretary-General established UNFIP on 1 March 1998 as an autonomous trust fund to serve as an interface with the United Nations Foundation, which was established by Robert Edward Turner as a public charity to channel his gift of \$1 billion to United Nations causes.

In his previous report (A/62/220), the Secretary-General concluded that the partnership initiatives with the United Nations Foundation, the private sector and other charitable foundations had yielded dividends in the form of new and strategic partnerships and additional resources for United Nations causes. Going forward, the United Nations Foundation aims to leverage the remaining \$350 million of Mr. Turner's funds to mobilize an additional \$1 billion from partners in support of United Nations causes. The agreement to leverage the remaining funds was renewed on 18 April 2007 for an additional 10-year period and is set to expire on 31 December 2017. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP (and by extension the United Nations Office for Partnerships) continue to collaborate on innovative ways to mobilize resources for United Nations causes and address global problems through public-private partnerships.

To date, the highly successful partnership between the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP has resulted in net additional resources to the United Nations of approximately \$1.03 billion, out of which \$405.6 million represent core Turner funds and \$597.4 million, approximately 58 per cent, have been generated by other partners. More than 400 projects have been implemented by 39 United Nations entities in 123 countries. UNFIP supports projects focused on the following areas: children's health; women and population; the environment; and peace, security and human rights.

As a result of the success of the UNFIP model of grant-making and programme management, the United Nations Democracy Fund was established at the 2005 World Summit. The Fund, launched in April 2006 with a focus on supporting democratic institutions, promoting human rights and ensuring the participation of all groups in democratic processes, funded the first round of 125 projects, for a total amount of \$35 million, at the beginning of 2007. In November 2007, it launched its second round of projects and received 1,873 applications from 137 countries, representing an increase of 44 per cent over the number of applications submitted in the first round.

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Partnership advisory services and outreach	4
II. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships	10
A. Children's health	10
B. Women and population	11
C. Environment	12
D. Strategic initiatives	15
III. United Nations Democracy Fund	16
IV. Conclusions	18

Annexes

I. Projects funded through the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships by programme area	21
II. Composition of the 2007 Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships	22
III. Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor as at 31 December 2007	23
IV. Composition of the 2007 Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund	24
V. Organizational chart of the United Nations Office for Partnerships	25

I. Partnership advisory services and outreach

1. Building on the 2005 World Summit Outcome (see resolution 60/1), Member States have recognized the importance of and expressed support for stronger contributions of non-State actors, civil society and the private sector in promoting the development agenda of the United Nations system. Member States have also agreed that there is a need to further develop and enhance support from non-State actors for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

2. While the United Nations system has been in partnership with the private sector and civil society in a variety of ways for over 60 years, the past decade has witnessed a significant surge in efforts through corporate social responsibility, the globalization of business and the continued evolution in information and communication technologies. This has led to the establishment of new, progressive networks through coherent, structured partnerships between the public and private sectors and the redefinition of the traditional roles and expectations of governments, business and civil society.

3. Partnerships with civil society and international organizations have now become commonplace in business. Incorporating business skills and philanthropic capital and addressing the rigors of the marketplace, partnerships have developed and delivered wide ranging solutions to today's challenges. The challenges and issues are far too vast and complex for any one sector to confront alone and require partnership and outreach strategies.

4. The United Nations Office for Partnerships thus promotes, encourages and facilitates the increased engagement of the United Nations system with private companies and foundations that remain largely untapped sources of additional support for United Nations objectives. The focus of the Office has largely been on furthering the Millennium Development Goals and promoting democracy. The Office engages in and supports many initiatives and interventions related to the Millennium Development Goals which are already under way and advocates for them to be both coordinated and scaled up for maximum impact through cost-effective and interlinked strategies and solutions. Moreover, the partnership-building activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships have as twin objectives the education and engagement of the public and new partners in the work of the United Nations.

5. The number of private sector entities that have approached the United Nations with regard to partnership opportunities has increased significantly in the last 10 years. In 2007, the United Nations Office for Partnerships received almost 700 external requests for advisory assistance from a wide range of private sector companies, foundations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and philanthropists, reflecting an almost 30 per cent increase over the previous year. In 2007, partnership advisory services represented approximately 60 per cent of the activities of the Office, while 40 per cent was dedicated to outreach and advocacy. The majority of requests from non-State actors concerned assistance for partnerships in programmes focused on poverty reduction, education, health and disaster relief, and humanitarian assistance in the least developed countries. The Office has also reached out to corporations and foundations in developing countries to develop alliances and partnerships within the developing world.

6. In 2007, the United Nations Office for Partnerships further enhanced implementation of its partnership advisory services and outreach initiatives and fostered innovative strategies for engaging non-State actors with the United Nations system. The expertise of the Office, which provides advice to United Nations entities, as well as to external organizations, is in the following areas:

- (a) Strategic advice to prospective partners in supporting United Nations causes;
- (b) Screening of internal and external inquiries;
- (c) Provision of advice on United Nations procedures and best practices;
- (d) Design of programmes and projects;
- (e) Establishment and, in some cases, management of global and regional networks;
- (f) Development of creative financing mechanisms.

Key projects and initiatives

7. Some of the key projects and initiatives implemented by the United Nations Office for Partnerships in 2007, in collaboration with the private sector, foundations, civil society organizations and the United Nations system, are set out below.

Blue Planet Run

8. On 5 June 2007, the United Nations Office for Partnerships co-hosted the launch of Blue Planet Run, an around-the-world race to build awareness about the lack of access to safe drinking water for more than 1 billion people. Twenty outstanding athletes completed the race, which spanned 16 countries and covered 15,200 miles. Sponsoring partners included Blue Planet Run Foundation, Dow Chemical Company (which raised over \$31 million,) Motorola, Skype and PayPal. The Office provided strategic advice to the partners on the allocation of funds raised for various projects aimed at providing safe and immediate access to drinking water.

Business Advisory Council for the Greater Tumen Region

9. In 2007, the United Nations Office for Partnerships assisted the United Nations Office in China to establish a Business Advisory Council, aimed at enhancing opportunities for business, creating jobs and economic growth and improving and enabling an investment environment via cross-border cooperation in the Greater Tumen Region. The aim of the Council is to engage the private sector in fostering sustainable development in the region, with a special focus on transportation; tourism; energy; infrastructure; and the environment, as a cross-cutting sector.

10. The Office developed a concept paper and terms of reference for the Business Advisory Council and facilitated its launch in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, in November 2007. Current Council members include: DHL, Standard Chartered Bank, Goldman Sachs, the China-Britain Business Council, the Daewoo International Corporation and a number of companies from the region.

Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy

11. The United Nations Office for Partnerships and the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy are working together to focus members on programmes and projects aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Committee is an international forum consisting of 175 chief executive officers and chairpersons who are responsible for raising the level and quality of corporate philanthropy. In 2007, the Office also served on the organization's Excellence Awards Selection Committee, which recognizes important philanthropy projects.

Commonwealth Business Council

12. The United Nations Office for Partnerships continued its collaboration with the Commonwealth Business Council to assist in partnership arrangements for the Council's "Linking Africa" campaign, which aims to support the goals of the African Union and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by creating the first detailed continent-wide economic profile database on a country-by-country basis. The partnership has led to a memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and the Commonwealth Business Council and the creation of the Global Business Council, which serves to enhance the mobilization of North/North and South/South investments and partnerships, to support enterprise development and to increase the role of business in society to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The membership of the Global Business Council comprises 94 companies from 53 countries spanning five continents.

European Foundation Centre

13. Since 2003, the United Nations Office for Partnerships has been introducing United Nations entities to the European Foundation Centre, an umbrella organization of over 500 European foundations. In 2007, the Office was invited to chair a panel discussion on promoting democracy at a meeting of the European Foundation Centre's General Assembly on the theme "New challenges for global philanthropy", which was conducted in collaboration with the Club de Madrid. The United Nations Office for Partnerships also promoted the adoption by the International Committee of the European Foundation Centre of the Millennium Development Goals as an essential element of the Centre's agenda, specifically to address global problems and challenges outside of the European region.

Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

14. In September 2007, the United Nations Office for Partnerships co-sponsored the world premiere at United Nations Headquarters of the movie *Trade*, which addresses the issue of human trafficking. The high-level event was part of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, which is managed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and served as an awareness-raising endeavour for the United Nations system and civil society. The funds raised at the event were donated to non-governmental organizations focused on providing services to the victims of human trafficking. The Office provided strategic advice on the involvement of the private sector at the event and assisted in creating a suitable financial mechanism to transfer the funds. It also played a critical role in securing well-known celebrities (including Joan Rivers) to advocate on behalf of the United

Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.

Global Partnership Center

15. The United Nations Office for Partnerships provided strategic advice to the United States Department of State on United Nations system experience and methodologies in preparation for the establishment of the Global Partnership Center. The focus of the Center is on building a common platform for State and non-State actors to collaborate on projects to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, in November 2007, the Office also co-chaired the first meeting of the Partnership Information Sharing Network, which the Office had established with the United States Department of State. Representatives of the following entities pooled their experiences: the United States Department of State, the United Nations Foundation, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the United States Agency for International Development, the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, established by President George Bush of the United States, the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank.

Global social compliance programme

16. In June 2007, the Comité International d'entreprises à succursales (International Committee of Food Retail Chains) launched the global social compliance programme, aimed at promoting the harmonization of existing codes and implementation systems in global supply chains. Currently, the programme consists of 20 companies, including Wal-Mart, Texco, Migros and Carrefour. The United Nations Office for Partnerships provided strategic advice to programme members in respect of their partnership-building activities with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Louise T. Blouin Foundation

17. The United Nations Office for Partnerships co-hosted, together with the Louise T. Blouin Foundation, the global creative leadership summit, held in New York in September 2007, to address the issues of global poverty reduction, trade, communication and foreign policy. The Office facilitated the participation of the United Nations system at the conference, which brought together leaders in business, technology, government, science and the arts, to provide insights that would have practical implications for problem-solving across various disciplines. Following are the key outcomes of the summit discussions:

(a) Identifying Governments, corporations and non-governmental organizations for joint work on health, education, poverty and water, and have them report thereon at the next summit;

(b) Developing a "Google for development" database for non-governmental organization use to identify what development work is being conducted and where, in order to determine the best application of resources;

(c) Developing methods to coordinate corporate social responsibility projects with new philanthropic capital in order to maximize resources and results;

(d) Supporting social enterprise models that are both entrepreneurial and experimental in order to find new ways of building business and distributing welfare.

Microsoft CEO Summit and launch of Microsoft Africa programmes

18. Chief executive officers from Fortune 1000 companies worldwide gathered at the Microsoft CEO Summit held from 15 to 17 May 2007. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships was interviewed at the Summit about the role of the enterprise in addressing global problems. The Office informed the corporate sector about priority issues on the agenda of the Organization and promoted strategies that focused on the Millennium Development Goals.

19. As a result, Microsoft announced in early 2007 that it was increasing its commitment to bring about new social and economic opportunities for developing and emerging markets around the world through the Microsoft Unlimited Potential programme, with the key focus on Africa. Microsoft is working with the United Nations Office for Partnerships to promote the use of technology, training and partnerships to help bring sustained social and economic opportunities to the estimated 5 billion people who are not yet realizing the benefits of technology.

20. To further those efforts, the United Nations Office for Partnerships hosted an event in May 2007 to advance Africa's partnership strategy. Participants included members of the diplomatic community of the United Nations, senior Microsoft representatives; foundation and business leaders, including the United Nations Foundation founder Ted Turner; Louise MacBain, founder of the Louise T. Blouin Foundation; and senior United Nations officials. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, stated that African development was one of the highest priorities of the United Nations.

Marvel Entertainment partnership

21. In cooperation with the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Office for Partnerships continued to work with Marvel Entertainment and the French documentary film producer, Romuald Sciora, on creating a comic book for global distribution about the work of the United Nations. The storyline will focus on themes that embody the spirit of the United Nations, including on the cooperation of people from diverse backgrounds in providing solutions to conflicts and aid to those in need all over the world. Along with the comic, games and posters will be produced explaining the work of the United Nations.

The Millennium Development Goals monitor

22. The United Nations Office for Partnerships helped to facilitate the setup of a new online resource that will serve as an educational and advocacy platform for realizing the Millennium Development Goals. Created as a web application tool for development practitioners, policymakers, journalists, students and others, the Millennium Development Goals monitor website can be used for tracking real-time progress on, for learning about and for supporting the Millennium Development Goals around the world. It was developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Google.org, in collaboration with various United Nations agencies and was launched in November 2007.

International section of the Public Relations Society of America

23. In December 2007, the United Nations Office for Partnerships co-hosted at United Nations Headquarters an event on the theme "Win-win partnerships with United Nations agencies: achieving your organization's social responsibility goal" for the Public Relations Society of America and briefed participants on the importance of corporate responsibility goals in the multi-stakeholder business world, as well as the impact of high-visibility public-private partnerships that help achieve both corporate responsibility goals and United Nations initiatives. A panel of representatives from a number of United Nations entities, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), presented their objectives and guidelines on cooperation with the private sector and provided concrete examples of successful partnerships. As a follow-up to the event, the United Nations Office for Partnerships, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, organized a briefing by a Society member, the global marketing research company, GfK Roper Public Affairs, for the United Nations Communications Group on a strategic communications plan, especially in conflict and post-conflict regions.

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

24. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund grant to the United Nations Development Programme, in the amount of \$25,000, will go towards a feasibility study for creating a global development platform. When operational, the platform will enable the United Nations to provide a comprehensive and efficient response to the growing interest of the private sector and civil society in United Nations causes, including the Millennium Development Goals, and leverage additional resources for United Nations programmes worldwide. Outputs of the initial phase of the project will include a draft analysis for a web-based tool, a collection and analysis of concrete information regarding ongoing partnership projects, an assessment of existing projects to identify lessons learned and best practices and a feasibility study for launching the project globally. In addition, and during the course of its development, the project will generate awareness of different or complementary approaches to facilitating partnership-building initiatives and the potential benefits of this approach for key development issues.

Synergos Institute

25. Through its strategic alliance with the Synergos Institute, the United Nations Office for Partnerships continued to advise members of the global philanthropists circle on the most effective ways of collaborating with the United Nations on global projects. The Office also worked with the Institute's multi-stakeholder partnerships section to explore ways to further its engagement in the United Nations activities, specifically in the areas of poverty alleviation, access to clean water, health care and education.

Wal-Mart

26. In 2007, under the guidance and support of the UNOP, Wal-Mart became increasingly engaged in supporting United Nations causes, especially the efforts of

the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to end violence against women. Wal-Mart has committed its intent to collaborate with the United Nations on the issue of gender-based violence and on specific needs for women in the workplace environment, specifically in large factories and major suppliers of Wal-Mart throughout the world.

Windsor he@lth dialogues

27. To highlight the midpoint of the Millennium Development Goals project, the United Nations Office for Partnerships designed the first in a series of dialogues focused on digital health, technology and development. "Digital health in the age of AIDS", was co-hosted by the Office, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, and the Rockefeller Foundation and held at St. George's House, Windsor Castle, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in October 2007. The delegates participating reached a consensus on priorities for action that yielded 12 groups of issues and resulted in a "Digital he@lth initiative" to be launched in 2008 at the forthcoming Windsor he@lth dialogues.

II. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

28. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) was established in 1998. Its mission is to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system and to promote new partnerships and alliances with civil society donors, in furtherance of United Nations causes. UNFIP collaborates with United Nations entities to identify innovative and deserving projects within the strategic areas of children's health; women and population; the environment; and peace, security and human rights. Since 2000, the Millennium Development Goals have provided an overall framework for UNFIP programming. At the end of 2007, the United Nations Foundation's allocations to UNFIP projects reached approximately \$1.03 billion, out of which \$405.6 million represented core Turner funds and \$597.4 million (almost 58 per cent) was generated by other partners. More than 400 projects have been implemented by 39 United Nations entities in 123 countries.

A. Children's health

29. As of 31 December 2007, the children's health portfolio comprised 78 projects, with a total value of \$619.4 million. The programme strategy is guided by priorities established at the World Summit for Children held in 1990 and Goal 4 of the Millennium Development Goals, which calls for reduction by two thirds of the under-five child mortality rate by 2015. The children's health strategy has addressed select diseases through extensive prevention strategies, large-scale immunization campaigns and the strengthening of the public health capacities of countries. Whenever possible and appropriate, other initiatives, such as community-based children's health programmes and micronutrient supplementation, have been integrated into the immunization campaigns. In 2007, the UNFIP priority activities in the area of children's health included the projects and initiatives set out below.

Polio eradication

30. In 2007, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP continued their support of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the largest international public health effort in history. WHO, UNICEF, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rotary International, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization and donor Governments collaborate jointly on the initiative, which has led to a rapid decline in transmission of the wild polio virus. As a result, the number of countries where polio is still endemic has decreased to four as of 2007. Public health infrastructure, particularly the cold chain and disease surveillance system, has been strengthened, having a favourable impact on other disease control efforts.

Measles prevention

31. The Measles Initiative, led by the American Red Cross, the United Nations Foundation, WHO, UNICEF and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has become one of the most successful global health initiatives in the world. In just six years, the Initiative has helped to reduce global measles mortality by 68 per cent, surpassing the United Nations goal of 50 per cent, by vaccinating over 400 million children. In Africa, mortality has been reduced by 91 per cent, exceeding the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy goal to reduce measles deaths by 90 per cent by 2010. Specifically, the number of global measles deaths declined from an estimated 873,000 in 1999 to 245,000 in 2007. In 2007, the Initiative expanded its efforts to include the delivery of such other critical health interventions, as oral polio vaccines, vitamin A, insecticide-treated bed nets and mebendazole for deworming. The Initiative also expanded its geographic reach beyond Africa to more than 197 million children in 33 countries.

Malaria prevention

32. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP have worked in conjunction with the Measles Initiative to distribute more than 730,000 insecticide-treated antimalarial bed nets in Africa through the end of 2007. Through the "Nothing but nets" campaign, approximately \$18 million has been raised to purchase and distribute insecticide-treated nets. In 2007, "Nothing but nets" funds were used to procure and distribute long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets during nationwide measles campaigns in Mali, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo. The project aimed to achieve at least 80 per cent coverage for children under 5 years in those areas. "Nothing but nets" also funded an emergency grant to provide long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets to internally displaced persons in Chad.

B. Women and population

33. As at 31 December 2007, the total value of the women and population portfolio was \$135.9 million for 94 projects. The programme's overarching objective has been to support universal access to reproductive health services and supplies by 2015, in keeping with the central goal set by the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. In addition, programme activities have focused on establishing the needs of adolescent girls and sexual and reproductive health and rights as global development priorities. In 2007, the UNFIP priority

activities related to the issue of women and population included the projects and initiatives set out below.

Supporting and strengthening the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women

34. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP have been working closely with UNFPA on a campaign to end fistula. This has included activities highlighting first-hand accounts of fistula survivors, including by supporting "One by one", a grass-roots campaign that raises funds for UNFPA efforts to address fistula through prevention, surgery and follow-up care, and various awareness-raising events. In partnership with the Hewlett Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP continued to provide support for UNFPA and Partners in Population and Development, an intergovernmental alliance of developing countries that aims to strengthen and expand South-South cooperation in this field. In partnership with the Ford Foundation, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP supported a joint WHO/UNFPA project to build capacity at the country level to ensure that reproductive health initiatives were sufficiently integrated into the development of poverty reduction strategy plans.

35. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP also provided financial support to UNIFEM to develop a sustainable financial model for the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, which has focused on reducing feminized poverty, ending violence against women, reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls and achieving gender equality.

Elevating the needs of adolescent girls on the global development agenda

36. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP continued to support the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Adolescent Girls, which includes representatives of UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, ILO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the World Bank, the World Health Organization and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and works collaboratively to support and respond to the needs of adolescent girls. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP, in partnership with the Nike Foundation, also assisted the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the "Nine million campaign", which aims to promote education, sports and play among adolescent refugee girls and to better their economic livelihoods by increasing their business skills and opportunities for income generation.

C. Environment

37. The overall environment portfolio as at 31 December 2007 was valued at \$162.9 million for 134 projects. The priority areas of the environment programme are biodiversity and sustainable development, and sustainable energy and climate change.

Biodiversity and sustainable development

38. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships continued to champion the work of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage by working with the United Nations Foundation to develop and fund programmes, including those set out below, which directly address threats to World Heritage sites.

World Heritage Alliance for Sustainable Tourism

39. The World Heritage Alliance for Sustainable Tourism has engaged the travel industry to support local communities and World Heritage preservation in more than 20 World Heritage sites in seven countries. This initiative also aims at harmonizing certification systems and developing a global platform for sustainable tourism best practices.

World Heritage local ecological entrepreneurship Programme

40. The World Heritage local ecological entrepreneurship Programme furthers the commitment to using a holistic approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. It is a joint investment initiative of the UNDP small grants programme and Conservation International. Through the initiative, a new financing facility was established, providing a market-based platform for communities in high biodiversity areas to access business and conservation training and the financial capital needed for long-term success.

Sian Ka'an World Heritage site

41. The project continued to work towards protecting critical coastal habitats threatened by tourism development through conservation action in the Yucatan coastal environment, a significant parcel of land in the Yucatan was purchased and a research and educational centre planned for the area. Protection of the region's freshwater wetlands, springs and coastal lagoons was enhanced by a statistical analysis of environmental indicators to create awareness on environmental issues and to assist in decision-making. Work is currently being undertaken on assessing the underground hydrological system in an effort to better map how ground water pollution may pose a threat to the coral reef.

Monitoring and management of World Heritage sites

42. The project continued its successful and close collaboration with World Heritage site managers to develop a detailed methodology for assessing management effectiveness. Two of the participating nine sites included in the List of World Heritage in Danger have since been removed, indicating that the main threats to the sites have been effectively managed. The "Enhancing our heritage" workbook has become one of the three most recognized approaches to assessing management effectiveness under the framework of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape

43. The initiative aimed to transform regional management in the 2,000,000 km² of seascape off the coasts of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama. The

region contains several marine UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the Galápagos Marine Reserve, Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary, Coiba National Park and Coco Island National Park. UNESCO, Conservation International and project partners have supported a growing network of Governments, regional cooperation mechanisms, non-governmental organizations, research institutions and the private sector to effectively manage the conservation of the region's intrinsic biodiversity value and ensure long-term benefits to the millions of people who depend on sustainable use of marine resources. The project has seen remarkable progress on all scales: core Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape sites are having their most urgent priorities met, national level processes promoting better marine management consistent with the objectives of the project were under way in each of the four Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape countries and regional cooperation was improving.

Partnership for the Galapagos Invasive Species Trust Fund

44. In 1999, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP partnered with UNESCO to eradicate invasive species in the Galapagos Islands. In order to preserve the unique biodiversity value of the Galapagos Islands and to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the project, an endowment facility was set up in 2007. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP matched Conservation International and other donor contributions on a one-to-one ratio, bringing the total contributions to over \$2.19 million. The United Nations Foundation also secured a \$1 million commitment from the Government of Ecuador for the endowment fund. The total of \$3.19 million was incorporated into a UNDP/Global Environment Facility initiative for a larger endowment of \$15 million and will trigger an additional \$1.6 million from the Facility.

BioTrade Programme of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

45. During 2007, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP extended their commitment to further the success of the BioTrade Programme. After providing two grants that facilitated the creation of a global programme and several national programmes within the Andean, Amazonian and Southern Africa regions, the United Nations Foundation joined the Union for Ethical BioTrade, a non-profit organization derived from the need for private sector coordination as identified by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The Union brings together a diverse group of businesses that use materials reflecting native biological diversity and organizations that commit to the principles and criteria of the Union. These networks have been set up to enable communities to access markets and facilitate bio-responsible production of goods and services.

Sustainable energy and climate change

46. In 2007, the United Nations Foundation supported the leadership of the Secretary-General in the area of climate change by providing financial support for the mandates of his three special envoys on the issue and by funding a high-level event at United Nations Headquarters on climate change. Additional key projects in 2007 are set out below.

Renewable energy for the electrification of the Galapagos Islands

47. Through the San Cristobal wind project, three giant wind turbines have become fully operational. The turbines will eventually halve the island's diesel fuel imports and pave the way for further renewable energy development in the Galapagos archipelago. The turbines were installed through a partnership between the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP, the Government of Ecuador, UNDP and a consortium of the world's largest electricity companies. The project is the first phase of an umbrella programme supported by the Government of Ecuador and UNDP focused on increased use of renewable electricity sources in the Galapagos-inhabited islands. The project has been a showcase for the promotion of small-scale renewable energy power generation and distribution systems in critical ecosystems.

E-Commerce and Renewable Energy

48. E-Commerce and Renewable Energy (eCARE) has established telecommunication centres owned and operated by entrepreneurs in rural and peri-urban areas of Ghana. Each eCARE rural business centre is powered by solar panels and consists of a modified and furnished shipping container equipped with a full range of communication technologies. The United Nations Foundation and UNFIP assisted in the development of a fund to provide loans to entrepreneurs to cover the capital costs of purchasing and equipping their eCARE business centres. Today, 69 centres are in operation in Ghana, benefiting more than 500,000 people. Ghana Telecom has played a leadership role in support of the initiative and has adopted it as a mainstay of its corporate social responsibility programme.

D. Strategic initiatives

49. The total value of this portfolio as at 31 December 2007 was \$63.4 million and comprised 58 projects. The projects provided support to the United Nations system in various areas of strategic importance. The key activities and projects in 2007 are set out below.

Supporting the Central Emergency Response Fund

50. The Central Emergency Response Fund was established to enable the more timely and reliable delivery of humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts. It is funded by voluntary contributions. Through a partnership agreement with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP have used funds raised from non-government contributors to support Central Emergency Response Fund programmes and activities. In 2007, the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP disbursed over \$100,000 to the Fund for rapid response programmes and underfunded emergency projects.

Securing the biological basis of agriculture and promoting new and fuller use of crop genetic resources

51. The project was designed to secure the threatened genetic diversity of 21 food crops; to expand their availability and utility to plant breeders in order to address the issues of food security, development and poverty; and to provide financial security for the long-term care and sustainability of those important genetic

collections. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has committed \$29.9 million to the initiative, which has been undertaken in collaboration with the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

III. United Nations Democracy Fund

52. The United Nations Democracy Fund, launched in April 2006, was established during the 2005 World Summit. As one of the outcomes of the Summit, the Fund was tasked with acting as a grant-making mechanism to support partnerships between civil society and the United Nations to promote democracy throughout the world. The Secretary-General tasked UNFIP with setting up the Fund structure and with providing management oversight and administrative support. The United Nations Office for Partnerships took over those responsibilities in 2006.

53. The United Nations Democracy Fund launched its first call for proposals on 15 April 2006 through an online application system that facilitated access by civil society organizations. A total of 1,303 applications were received from 131 countries, of which 916 applications were submitted by civil society organizations and the remainder by the United Nations, academia and Governments. The Fund screened the proposals for eligibility and an in-depth analysis of the proposals was undertaken by the Programme Consultative Group. The Advisory Board of the Fund recommended 125 initiatives, for a total project cost of \$35 million, which was subsequently approved by the Secretary-General. The funding of the projects began in 2007 and addressed the following key areas:

- (a) Civic education, electoral support and political parties (28 per cent);
- (b) Democratic dialogue and constitutional processes (25.6 per cent);
- (c) Civil society empowerment (16 per cent);
- (d) Accountability, transparency and integrity (16 per cent);
- (e) Human rights and fundamental freedoms (8.8 per cent);
- (f) Access to information (5.6 per cent).

54. In 2007, The Fund continued to collect mid-year reports on projects that had been funded under the first round and reported on achievements to the Fund Advisory Board members. Over the course of 2007, the Fund undertook a number of initiatives to enlarge its donor base. Bulgaria, Cyprus, Japan, Lithuania, Peru, Romania and Turkey all made first-time contributions to UNDEF, expanding the group of contributors to a total of 33 Member States. The total amount of contributions received as at 31 December 2007 reached \$65 million, surpassing the 2006 budget by an additional \$21 million.

55. The two governing mechanisms of the Fund are the Advisory Board and the Programme Consultative Group. The Advisory Board, consisting of 17 members appointed by the Secretary-General, held three meetings in 2007 (on 10 April, 5 November and 14 December). Two additional members were added for 2008. The main purpose of the Advisory Board is to provide policy guidance for the development of programme and funding guidelines and to recommend funding proposals for approval by the Secretary-General. The Programme Consultative

Group consists of the following six entities: the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNDP, UNIFEM, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office also participates in Programme Consultative Group meetings. The purpose of the Programme Consultative Group is to utilize the specific technical expertise of each entity during the assessment and quality control processes and to provide advisory functions during the implementation phase in regard to project monitoring and evaluation. The Programme Consultative Group held three meetings in 2007 (on 17 January, 16 October and 6 December). In October 2007, a new Executive Head of the Fund was appointed.

56. The United Nations Democracy Fund launched its second call for project proposals through an online application system in November 2007. A total of 1,873 applications from 137 countries were submitted, representing a 44 per cent increase over the number of applications submitted in the first round. Projects submitted by civil society organizations accounted for 85.9 per cent, followed by United Nations entities (6.9 per cent), other public institutions (2.9 per cent), global or regional intergovernmental bodies or associations (2.3 per cent) and government agencies (1.8 per cent). With regard to the regional origins of project proposals, 37.3 per cent of applications were from Africa, followed by Asia and the Pacific (22 per cent), the Americas (17.6 per cent), Europe (11.6 per cent) and Arab States (5.4 per cent). The applications addressed the following issues:

- (a) Civil society empowerment (28.8 per cent);
- (b) Human rights and fundamental freedoms (22.4 per cent);
- (c) Democratic dialogue (19.6 per cent);
- (d) Civil education, electoral support and political parties (12.3 per cent);
- (e) Accountability, transparency and integrity (8.8 per cent);
- (f) Access to information (8.1 per cent).

57. Eighty-two per cent of the proposals were for projects at the country level. Applications closed on 31 December 2007. The five countries that submitted the largest number of project proposals were (in order of ranking): Nigeria, Nepal, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia and Sierra Leone. Five per cent of the proposals received were for global projects and 13 per cent were for projects to be delivered at the regional level.

58. The Advisory Board approved a scheme for the second round of funding, whereby the Fund would retain approximately 10 per cent of project funds for monitoring and evaluation purposes. The decision was based on a preliminary paper, submitted by the Fund on a Fund evaluation strategy, and was discussed at the sixth Advisory Board meeting, on 14 December 2007. During the last quarter of 2007, the Fund revised and updated documents on project document guidelines; monitoring and reporting guidelines and timetables; evaluation guidelines and project revisions and extension procedures.

59. The United Nations Democracy Fund aims to establish, on an annual basis, a clear grant-making system which will be readily understood by donors and grant-seekers alike. In consultation with the Advisory Board and the Programme

Consultative Group in 2007, it prepared and issued a number of papers and guidelines in that regard.

60. The United Nations Democracy Fund continued to build strong partnerships with Member States, non-governmental organizations and think tanks to ensure that Member States, as well as the wider international community and civil society, were well informed about the work of the Fund and of developments in sponsored projects. Briefings on the work of the Fund were organized for the following:

- Citizens' Commission for Human Development (2 August 2007)
- International IDEA (6 August 2007)
- United States Department of State (12 and 25 September 2007)
- Asia Foundation (24 September 2007)
- Council for a Community of Democracies (24 September 2007)
- Conseil des organisations non-gouvernementales d'appui au développement (25 September 2007)
- Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (26 September 2007)
- Commonwealth Secretariat (22 October 2007)
- Delegation of the European Parliament (19 November 2007)
- Japanese parliamentary delegation (21 November 2007)

VI. Conclusions

61. Strategic engagement with foundations, the private sector and other stakeholders is proving to be an effective method for advancing United Nations goals. Today's unprecedented cooperation between the United Nations and non-State actors is driven by a recognition that many of the world's most pressing problems are too complex for any one sector to face alone. Thus, the public and private sectors increasingly work together in converting social responsibility into practice and helping the Organization to achieve its goals.

62. The successful mobilization of resources through the partnership activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships have resulted, to date, in net additional resources to the United Nations system of more than \$1 billion. Moreover, the Office has seen a sharply increased demand for its partnership advisory services from the private sector, foundations, non-governmental organizations and philanthropists, receiving almost 700 requests for advisory services in 2007.

63. Since the inception of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships in March 1998, the Office has benefited from numerous lessons learned and best practices in partnership facilitation, outreach and support, which are now being institutionalized. Specifically, the United Nations Office for Partnerships serves as a one-stop, full-scale partnership service for the United Nations system. To engage corporations, foundations and civil society in helping to achieve United Nations goals, especially the Millennium Development Goals, the Office will continue to provide expert advice and assistance in the following areas:

- (a) Screening of internal and external inquiries;
- (b) Provision of advice on United Nations procedures and best practices;
- (c) Design of programmes and projects;
- (d) Establishment and, in some cases, management of global and regional networks;
- (e) Development of creative financing mechanisms.

64. During the next five years, the Office will aim to enhance its services as a repository for external State and non-State actors, for contacts and for lessons learned and best practices concerning public-private partnerships in the United Nations system. The Office will continue to provide daily guidance and support in the above areas to both external partners and United Nations entities. Simultaneously, the Office will continue to provide a unique platform for outreach and advocacy, focusing on raising awareness of the work of the United Nations and on identifying new partners to support the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The Office will also aim to include in its key priorities the provision of assistance to United Nations programmes in post-conflict countries via the encouragement of private sector investments.

65. The United Nations Office for Partnerships intends to enhance its Partnership Advisory Services specifically in the following three areas: working with existing partners to strengthen existing partnerships; identifying and developing new partnership opportunities; and exploring ways to increase the capacity and efficiencies of the Office, in particular to create a more user-friendly data management system. The Office will also aim to create a small, agile and focused additional capacity to carry out essential partnership functions. The establishment of such a capacity is an important strategic initiative, with the potential to make significant contributions towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. As a first step towards that goal, there is a need to formalize the Office's vast databases of partnerships and contacts, and to make them accessible to all United Nations entities. The comprehensive database will include good practices in the areas of negotiating agreements, financial management, advocacy, risk assessment and implementation of guidelines on cooperation with the business sector. As an immediate step for 2008, the Office has secured external resources to conduct a feasibility study to provide a sound analysis for such a database, the value it might provide with respect to facilitating development partnerships and the necessary conditions for its viability. The study will provide the necessary data required for a more detailed proposal for the new partnership capacity based on a sound appreciation of what is required and appropriate.

66. In collaboration with the United Nations Office on Partnerships, the United Nations Foundation continues to strengthen and grow while yielding dividends in the form of new and additional resources for United Nations causes. As the high-level interface of the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP continues its management of grants and related activities. Going forward, the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations Office for Partnerships aim to mobilize another \$1 billion, to be allocated over 10 years, from partners to support the goals of the United Nations.

67. The United Nations Democracy Fund was established in 2005 and became fully operational in 2006. To date it has conducted two funding rounds, committing

about \$60 million to support projects that build democracy around the world. It has sharpened its focus and, in consultation with its Advisory Board and in coordination with other United Nations bodies, has determined that it will concentrate on funding civil society organizations, thus complementing the many United Nations programmes that support government projects. The second round of funding was met with a resounding vote of enthusiasm from civil society worldwide. Whereas there were 1,300 applications for funding in the first round (2006), there were 1,873 applications in the second round (2007), representing an increase of 44 per cent. Applications were received from all parts of the globe, with sub-Saharan Africa submitting over one third of all applications, followed by applications from the Asia-Pacific region and Latin America and the Caribbean. The Fund aims to maintain an annual process for the application, selection and disbursement of funds.

Annex I

Projects funded through the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships by programme area

(In United States dollars)

Programme area	As at December 2006			Approvals in 2007			Total			Funded by		
	Number of projects	Value	Number of projects	Number of projects	Value	Number of projects	Value	Number of projects	Value	United Nations Foundation	Parallel donors	Other donors
Children's health	69	613 405 568	9	5 999 340	78	619 404 908	142 889 042	47 324 101	476 515 866			
Population and women	89	133 848 854	5	2 144 265	94	135 993 119	117 393 291	22 338 737	18 599 828			
Environment	131	162 577 528	3	361 404	134	162 938 932	116 957 282	234 287 572	45 981 651			
Peace, security and human rights	58	49 485 198	0	—	58	49 485 198	36 070 943	22 445 750	13 414 255			
Other	51	33 072 124	7	30 311 899	58	63 384 023	20 397 961	7 591 277	42 986 061			
Total	398	992 389 272	24	38 816 908	422	1 031 206 180	433 708 519	333 987 437	597 497 661			

Annex II

Composition of the 2007 Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General (Chairperson)

Alicia Bárcena, Under-Secretary-General for Management

Leo Mérorès, President, Economic and Social Council (Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations)

Lincoln C. Chen, MD, President, China Medical Board of New York

Kirsti Lintonen, Chairman of the Second Committee, General Assembly (Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations)

Mary Oakes Smith, Fellow, Information Technology for Education and Health, World Bank

Franklin A. Thomas, The Ford Foundation Study Group

Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Amir Dossal (member, ex officio), Executive Director, United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Annex III

Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor as at 31 December 2007

(In United States dollars)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Cumulative contribution</i>
Australia	7 303 974.44
Bulgaria	10 000.00
Chile	130 000.00
Croatia	25 000.00
Cyprus	5 000.00
Czech Republic	134 099.57
Denmark	265 017.67
Estonia	10 395.00
France	1 874 000.00
Georgia	24 942.69
Germany	3 684 784.50
Hungary	50 000.00
India	10 000 000.00
Ireland	658 724.00
Israel	27 500.00
Italy	1 485 400.00
Japan	10 000 000.00
Lithuania	13 277.69
Mongolia	10 000.00
Peru	20 000.00
Poland	200 000.00
Portugal	50 000.00
Qatar	6 000 000.00
Republic of Korea	1 000 000.00
Romania	294 260.00
Senegal	100 000.00
Slovenia	80 000.00
Spain	2 290 212.50
Sri Lanka	5 000.00
Sweden	729 450.04
Turkey	50 000.00
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	609 350.00
United States of America	17 920 000.00
Total	65 060 388.10

Annex IV

Composition of the 2007 Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund

Member States

Australia
Benin
Chile
France
Germany
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Japan
Qatar
South Africa
United States of America

Non-governmental organizations

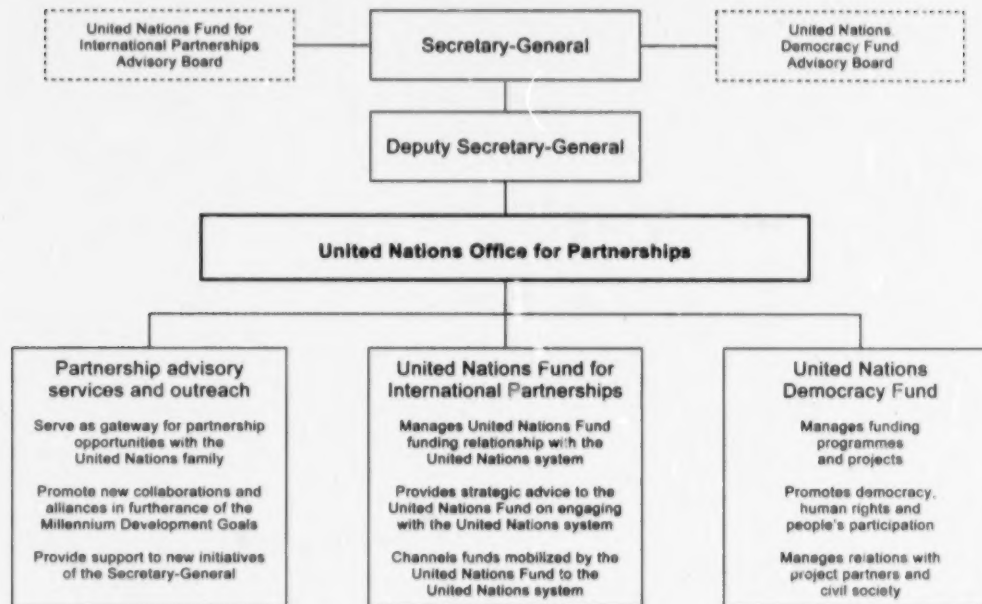
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
International Commission of Jurists

Others appointed by the Secretary-General

Michael Doyle
Rima Khalaf Hunaidi
Guillermo O'Donnell
Amir A. Dossal (member, ex officio)

Annex V

Organizational chart of the United Nations Office for Partnerships



**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
8 August 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 34 of the provisional agenda*
Questions relating to information

Questions relating to information**Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

During the first half of 2008, the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat continued to highlight United Nations priority issues in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights. It paid particular attention to promoting the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping.

The network of United Nations information centres, services and components played a key role in this effort. Better equipped and better trained, they are now increasingly integrated with the United Nations country teams. The Department further expanded its media services, widening the daily delivery of news and information products via radio, television and print media.

Most notably, there was a marked increase in the use of the United Nations website over the past six months, with a growing number of visitors viewing it as an essential resource for news and information. The Department worked in close cooperation with non-governmental organizations and civil society to expand its outreach and promotional activities. Using the Internet and videoconferencing, it was able to connect with an ever increasing number of young people in a dialogue on issues that matter most to them.

* A/63/150 and Corr.1.



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	3
II. Strategic communication services	3
A. Thematic issues	3
B. United Nations information centres	10
III. News services	11
A. Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General	11
B. United Nations website	11
C. Radio, television and photo services	14
D. United Nations photo and video materials	16
E. UN News Centre	16
F. Placement of op-ed articles	17
G. Other services to media	17
IV. Outreach and knowledge-sharing services	18
A. Library and knowledge services	18
B. Outreach services	19
C. Print and online products	23
D. Sales and marketing	24
V. A culture of evaluation	24
VI. Conclusions	25

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 62/111 B of 17 December 2007, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirtieth session and to the Assembly at its sixty-third session on the activities of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in that resolution. Accordingly, the Department of Public Information introduced two reports for consideration by the Committee on Information at its thirtieth session, held from 28 April to 9 May 2008 (A/AC.198/2008/2 and 3). The deliberations of the Committee with regard to those reports are reflected in its report to the Assembly.¹

2. The present report, prepared in response to the above-mentioned resolution, updates the information provided to the Committee on Information at its thirtieth session and describes activities undertaken by the Department of Public Information in the first half of 2008 through its three subprogrammes: strategic communication services, news services, and outreach and knowledge-sharing services.

II. Strategic communication services

A. Thematic issues

Sixtieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping

3. The Department of Public Information cooperated closely with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, both of the United Nations Secretariat, on activities designed to mark the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping (see box I). The global year-long observance was launched on 29 May 2008, the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The Departments produced coordinated products which complemented each other in design and messaging, including a special website, a poster, a 12-minute documentary video, a press packet and a photo exhibition on historical and contemporary issues in peacekeeping, displayed at United Nations Headquarters in New York with the assistance of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations. The exhibition highlighted the role of major troop-contributing countries, including Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Pakistan and South Africa. The Department of Public Information, in consultation with relevant United Nations information centres, also prepared regional versions of the exhibition for the Arab world, Latin America, South Asia and South Africa. The Department of Public Information also assisted in the creation and dissemination of a public service announcement on the work of United Nations peacekeepers, which had been sponsored and produced by the United Nations Foundation.

4. As part of the ongoing observance, the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information led a seminar on peacekeeping in Tokyo in June, co-sponsored with the Foreign Ministry of Japan and United Nations University, which featured the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and other senior officials, those of United Nations peacekeeping missions. The event was covered by the Japanese media.

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/63/21).*

Box I**United Nations information centres observe the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers**

In commemoration of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers and the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping, United Nations information centres carried out numerous activities, often in partnership with local government authorities, civil society and information components of United Nations peacekeeping operations. For example:

- **Asunción.** The United Nations Information Centre, Asunción cooperated with the Joint Peacekeeping Training Centre of the Paraguayan Armed Forces in a live television debate featuring military personnel
- **Brazzaville.** The United Nations Information Centre, Brazzaville organized a lecture and ceremony in collaboration with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence
- **Brussels.** The United Nations Regional Information Centre, Brussels hosted a round table, launched a photo exhibition and translated information materials into several European languages
- **Islamabad.** The United Nations Information Centre, Islamabad arranged a briefing session with the Senate of Pakistan and launched a photo exhibition at the Parliament House

Ending sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel

5. The Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, continued to raise awareness on progress in ending sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel by means of public information materials and press briefings, both at Headquarters and in the field. It has responded quickly and robustly with factual information, while acknowledging that incidences of sexual exploitation and abuse continue to constitute a serious issue that does grave harm to the image of the United Nations. The Department of Public Information, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support continue to work on improving communications on the issue, which was also a major topic at a training course in June 2008, organized by the Department of Public Information for the chiefs of public information components of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The 24 senior public information officials from 19 United Nations peacekeeping missions and political offices who participated in the workshop discussed ways to improve strategic communications for and on peacekeeping in the field.

United Nations peacekeeping operations

6. The Department of Public Information has been working with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the Peacebuilding

Support Office on creating policy and best practices for United Nations radio stations in peacekeeping operations, of which there are currently five. It has also been supporting those radio stations and held a film screening, featuring the award-winning Canadian documentary entitled *Shock Waves*, and seminar on radio and peacebuilding, at United Nations Headquarters in April. The Department of Public Information has also been working with the peace operation in Sierra Leone on transferring the popular United Nations radio station in that country to local ownership upon the scheduled withdrawal of the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), replaced by the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) at the end of September 2008.

7. The Department of Public Information, working in close collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, helped 12 peace operations create content management system websites, so that eventually all peace operations websites would be easy to use and would have a "branded" United Nations look.

8. The website for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), which is maintained by the Department of Public Information, received 100,000 hits in the first six months following the establishment of the operation on 31 December 2007.

Millennium Development Goals

9. The focus of communications work for the Millennium Development Goals in 2008 has been the lead-up to and planning for the High-level Event to be held on 25 September, which is being coordinated by the Department of Public Information through a United Nations Communications Group Task Force. In the first half of the year, the Department worked with the Office of the President of the General Assembly to promote the Assembly's thematic debate on the Millennium Development Goals in early April. The Department produced media materials and helped to organize the press conference and media outreach. Coverage included stories by CNN, the Associated Press, Inter Press Service, AFP, Reuters, the Voice of America, Channel 4 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), *The Hindu* (India) and Prensa Latina.

10. The Department of Public Information worked with the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on designing and publishing the recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group in a format suitable for high-level use, as well as press materials. The Department, with on-the-ground support from the United Nations Information Centre, Cairo, helped organize the press launch held at the African Union Summit in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 1 July, with the Deputy Secretary-General, the Chairpersons of the African Union and African Union Commission, and the President of the African Development Bank. There was strong media coverage, especially in Africa, and internationally through AFP, Xinhua, BBC World News, Reuters TV, Al Jazeera and National Public Radio. The 2008 Millennium Development Goals Report will be launched in September as a curtain-raiser to the High-level Event. The Department of Public Information is organizing media outreach at Headquarters and by United Nations information centres, and is producing a press kit and special website, as well as redesigning the top Millennium Development Goals website

(www.un.org/millenniumgoals) to serve as a gateway to United Nations system work on the Goals.

New Partnership for Africa's Development

11. The Department's efforts to raise public awareness of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/54/204, annex) and support for its implementation resulted in broader dissemination of information on the goals, challenges and achievements of the New Partnership during the first six months of 2008, compared with the same period last year. Some 48 short feature articles written by the Africa Section were published 271 times in major English-, French-, and Kiswahili-language media, primarily in Africa, Europe and North America. African media picking up the Department's stories included *Public Eye* (Lesotho), *The Punch* and *Thisday* (Nigeria) and *Mail and Guardian* online (South Africa).

12. In this regard, particularly notable is the role played by the Department's quarterly magazines, *Africa Renewal* and *Afrique renouveau*. Readership grew both from individual subscriptions and through distribution of the magazine at major Africa-related conferences. In 2008, these included the Europe Africa Business Summit in Hamburg, Germany (28-30 April) (www.eabs.info); the Africala Film Festival, Mexico City; and the fifth annual African Economic Forum, held at Columbia University, New York City (www.sipa.columbia.edu/aef).

13. The Department also sought to raise international awareness on Africa's special needs in relation to climate change. *Africa Renewal* and *Afrique renouveau* ran articles examining how the conservation of Africa's forests can help counter global climate change, highlighting the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with African Governments aimed at protecting forests that shelter income-producing commodities, such as tea in Kenya. A second piece examined World Bank-managed carbon-trading facilities. Another article, published in July, explained the working of the Clean Development Mechanism established under the Kyoto Protocol² to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³ and how Africa can take better advantage of its funding.

14. A shortened version of "Saving Africa's forests" was published in 12 publications and websites in Canada, Ghana, Mali, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, including the internationally recognized Africa-interest portal www.allafrica.com, a major United Kingdom-based educational website devoted to sustainable forest management (www.forests.org), *Daily Graphic* and *Daily Guide* (Ghana), and *L'Essor* (Mali).

Climate change

15. The Department of Public Information has continued to serve as convener for a communications task force of 17 United Nations entities working on climate change which coordinates and implements a system-wide strategy for communications on the issue. The Department, with the inter-agency task force in the lead, maintains a website detailing the work of the United Nations system on climate change. Key events in the climate change agenda that could benefit from joint communications efforts have been identified by the task force, including the fourteenth session of the

² FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Poznań, Poland, in December 2008. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, recognizing the role of the United Nations Communications Group Task Force on Climate Change, has requested it to serve as a co-convenor for the cross-cutting issue of public awareness in the area of climate change.

Sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

16. The Department of Public Information has been co-sponsoring, with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the New Human Rights Dialogue Series, a monthly series of discussions at United Nations Headquarters on pressing human rights issues, which have attracted large and diverse audiences of delegates, United Nations staff, students and representatives of non-governmental organizations. Many of the Department's field offices have also been organizing events in support of the year-long campaign, including:

- **The United Nations Information Centre, Bujumbura**, which organized a workshop for local media on human rights
- **The United Nations Information Centre, Dhaka**, which held a poetry reading
- **The United Nations Information Centre, Maseru**, which organized a youth essay competition
- **The United Nations Information Centre, Bucharest**, which organized a human rights documentary festival
- **The United Nations Regional Information Centre, Brussels**, whose "Know Your Rights" website (www.knowyourrights2008.org), which showcases anniversary events in Europe and special features such as an interactive quiz on human rights, was expanded to include eight European languages

Rwanda Outreach Programme

17. The Kinyarwanda, French and English versions of the "Lessons from Rwanda" exhibition, which focuses on the history of the Rwanda genocide and its lasting impact on survivors, were exhibited in Rwanda at two university campuses, at a seminar of Rwandan Supreme Court judges and at the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission centre, with assistance from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda information office in Kigali (see also box II). The Department also prepared and launched the "Lessons from Rwanda" website in all six official languages. Other materials, including two posters focusing on the lasting impact of the genocide, were also distributed. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda information office reported that having these materials available in Kinyarwanda "was remarkably appreciated by the participants" and that the Outreach Programme was "very important for the promotion of unity and reconciliation in Rwanda". The exhibition was also well received when it was shown at the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, South Africa, in January 2008 and in Toronto, Canada, in June 2008.

18. A nine-minute television piece, presented by United Nations Television (UNTV), entitled "Rising from the ashes", depicting the story of one 29-year-old

genocide survivor and her struggle for justice and reconciliation, was finalized and made available online.

Box II

"Visions of Rwanda" photo project

With the help of the Department of Public Information, survivors of genocide in Rwanda recently came together to document their day-to-day life, hopes, dreams and memories as part of a "Visions of Rwanda" photo project. The 12 participants included orphans, widows, rape and assault survivors, and a *gacaca* judge, as well as perpetrators, some of whom were responsible for the deaths of family members of other participants. The participants, many of whom had never before used a camera, were trained by a United Nations facilitator and given general photography tips; they were then free to document whatever topics they deemed to be important to them. Examples of subjects portrayed in the 1,000 plus photographs were local prisoners, children, weddings, memorial sites and the remains of family members. The photographs taken by the participants and their stories will be turned into an online feature and a hard-copy exhibition. The equipment used in the programme was donated to a local orphanage and university in Kigali.

Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women

19. The Department of Public Information supported the launch of the Secretary-General's system-wide campaign to end violence against women on 25 February 2008. Information materials were developed in six languages, and a logo and website (endviolence.un.org) were created with inter-agency information and links. Several information centres and services — including ones in Ankara, Baku, Brussels, Cairo, Lima, Manama, Moscow, Ouagadougou, Tehran, Vienna and Washington, D.C. — mobilized public awareness on the campaign through country-specific press conferences, seminars, film screenings and public events.

Promotion of the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

20. The Department has increased its promotion of the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as both bodies have expanded their deliberations utilizing innovative formats. In this regard:

(a) The Department of Public Information worked to promote three General Assembly thematic debates held this year on climate change, producing press releases and organizing press conferences, media outreach and interviews. Media coverage of the first debate, held over three days in February, was extensive in the local New York press, including *The New York Times*, *The Daily News* and *Newsday*, as well as through the Associated Press, Reuters, Prensa Latina and Xinhua;

(b) The second debate, on the role of private investment, held on 9 June, was covered in many developing-country outlets such as Xinhua, AllAfrica, Associated

Press of Pakistan and the Indo-Asian News Service; the third debate, held on 8 July, which focused on vulnerable States, was also covered by international media;

(c) The high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, held from 10 to 12 June, was another major focus of activity for the Department of Public Information, which worked with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Office of the President of the General Assembly to produce a press kit and website, and to set up numerous press conferences and media interviews;

(d) The special briefing held by the Economic and Social Council on the global food crisis, on 20 May 2008, was promoted by the Department of Public Information through the distribution of press materials and the statements and video messages of the main participants, taking advantage of the strong media interest in this issue. Over 100 news articles in all regions were published within 24 hours of the event. For the high-level segment of the Council (30 June-3 July), including the annual ministerial review and Development Cooperation Forum, a press kit was produced and a number of press conferences were organized.

United Nations Communications Group

21. The seventh annual meeting of the United Nations Communications Group at the level of principals was held on 16 and 17 June 2008 in Paris at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Hosted by UNESCO, the meeting was attended by 37 Communications Group member organizations. The meeting agreed to:

(a) Forward a note to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, confirming and outlining the Group's collaboration in the development and implementation of a United Nations system climate change communications work programme for 2008-2009. This work programme on public information and advocacy will form part of the larger United Nations system-wide efforts on climate change;

(b) Inform the United Nations country teams through the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office (UNDOCO) of a standard operating procedure for communicating together in times of crisis, upon its final approval by the Group;

(c) Set up a working group on communications aspects of "Delivering as One" United Nations pilots, to be facilitated by the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office (UNDOCO), with a view to exploring means to increase internal and inter-agency communications in support of "Delivering as One" United Nations pilots, as well as to strengthen the United Nations Communications Group at the country level;

(d) Support the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) as the lead United Nations agency in the organization of the United Nations Pavilion at Expo 2010 in Shanghai, China.

22. The Department continued to expand its efforts to coordinate messaging and strategies through the system-wide United Nations Communications Group, which included the convening of special meetings of inter-agency communications group

task forces and working groups on, inter alia, the Arab region, climate change, human and avian influenza, the Millennium Development Goals and public opinion polling (see also box III).

Box III

An emergency alert system

In the face of a public-health emergency, mass communication is among the most important factors in respect of managing risk and saving lives, and it can even be the most critical factor, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). A task force of the United Nations Communications Group is responding to this imperative with a set of systems to facilitate fast, clear and consistent messaging in the event of a global humanitarian crisis, such as a highly contagious influenza pandemic. A dedicated, secure Web-based facility allows specialized agencies to exchange information, talking points and press releases as they are issued, or in advance of their issuance. An alert system has also been set up which can notify participants at any time or on any day of the week, within minutes after an emergency has been identified.

B. United Nations information centres

Strengthening communications capacity

23. In the first half of the year, nine librarians and seven webmasters from information centres attended workshops on project management in New York conducted by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and under the United Nations external training programme, respectively. By including staff from information centres that have been given a greater regional role, namely, those at Brussels, Cairo, Mexico City and Pretoria, the Department has sought to "train the trainers", enhancing their ability to provide guidance and technical assistance to other centres within their respective regions. For example, those information centres in sub-Saharan Africa without technical staff now send their news and images to the webmaster at the centre in Pretoria for the purpose of updating their websites remotely.

Enhancing the use of new information and communications technologies

24. To strengthen communications infrastructure and enhance the use of information and communications technology, the Department, in cooperation with the Information Technology Services Division at Headquarters, provided 152 computers and related equipment to 26 information centres in developing countries. As a result of their enhanced capabilities, internet corners have been set up at information centres in 20 countries, including Argentina, Ghana, Egypt, Lebanon, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa and Switzerland. These Internet corners provide journalists, researchers, students and the general public with access to the Internet and to electronic information concerning the United Nations.

25. The Department has also revamped the United Nations information centres website, highlighting their role in enhancing multilingualism. It now has links to

electronic versions of information materials produced in some 80 local languages. The creation of dedicated e-mail format, deployed in 2008, has also resulted in consistent, easily identifiable e-mail addresses for the information centres. Further:

- In February, using a Web conferencing tool, staff from the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels and from the Information Centre in Mexico City participated in the DPI/NGO communications workshop held in New York to discuss practical ways in which non-governmental organizations associated with the Department could collaborate with the network of information centres. In May, staff from the Department in New York joined a workshop for model United Nations organizers held in Mexico City via videoconference.

III. News services

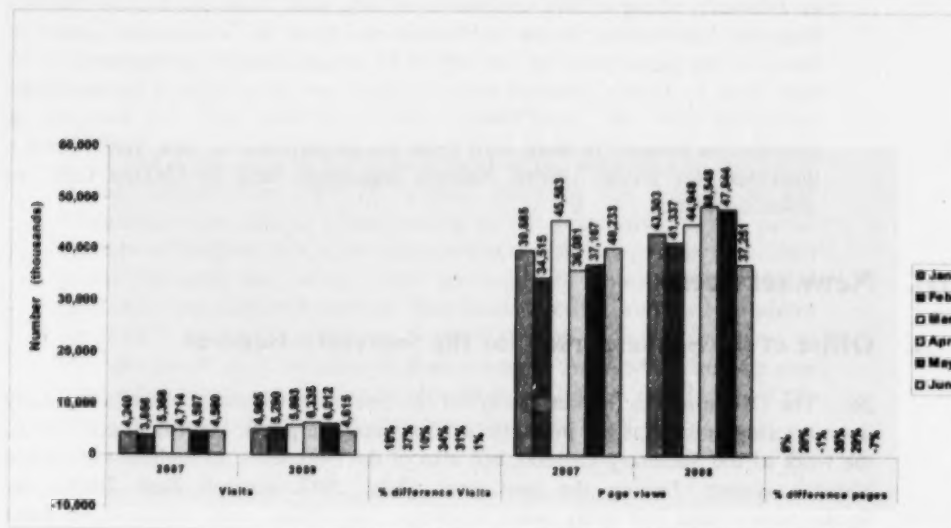
A. Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General

26. The Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General conducts the daily noon briefing and keeps the press, delegations and the public informed, not only of the work of the Secretary-General, but also of developments throughout the United Nations system. During the past year (July 2007 through June 2008), the Spokesperson held 248 daily press briefings. The Office also organized 45 press conferences given by the Secretary-General at Headquarters and abroad, 98 press briefings by Member States, 125 press conferences by senior officials and 10 background briefings. In addition, the Office coordinated 71 press encounters and 117 press interviews with the Secretary-General at Headquarters and during his official visits to Member States. The Office also coordinated the logistics related to participation of groups of journalists who accompanied the Secretary-General on 11 of his trips overseas.

B. United Nations website

27. The past six months have witnessed a marked increase in the use of the United Nations website (www.un.org), with a growing number of visitors viewing it as an essential resource for news and information in various languages and in multiple forms (figure 1). Alongside the general increase in website traffic, one trend in particular stood out: an upsurge in the use of video materials. An average of over 32,000 video clips were viewed every 24 hours, representing a 116 per cent increase in the number of video clips viewed per day. Among the contributing factors was the extended webcast coverage provided by the Department of the sessions of the Human Rights Council and United Nations conferences held away from Headquarters.

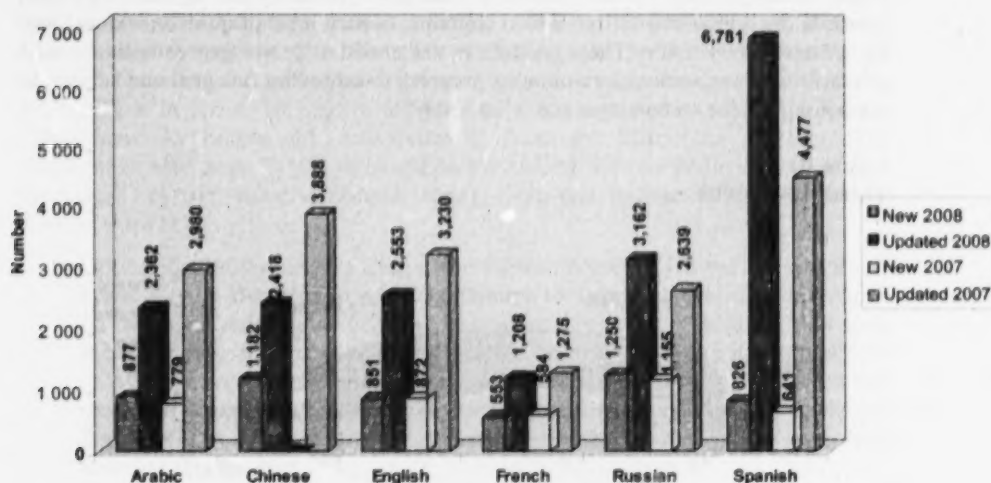
Figure I
Visits to and page views at www.un.org, 2007-2008
 (Thousands)



28. Between January and June 2008, 23 multilingual websites were created or redesigned in response to an array of new developments or special events (see also figure II). Those included the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping (1948-2008), the Secretary-General's High-level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis, the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁴ the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, the International Year of Languages and International Women's Day.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

Figure II
New and updated web pages in the first six months of 2008 and 2007



Towards website governance and a content management system (CMS)

29. The rapid growth of the United Nations website, which was accompanied by a proliferation of online material produced by various departments and offices, has resulted in the development of a structurally and navigationally complex site, with multiple levels of responsibility for design and content delivery. At present, there are close to 200 content providers with posting rights to un.org, maintaining websites with different designs, and no overall branding. The Department of Public Information is responsible for the contents and presentation of the top layers of the site, while the other Departments maintain their own sites. In order to address the need for adherence to established Web publishing guidelines, the Department is moving forward with a comprehensive Web governance mechanism composed of two tiers: a policy tier, with the authority to promulgate, monitor and enforce standards; and a working-level tier, which receives incident reports and reviews and recommends standards and follow-up measures.

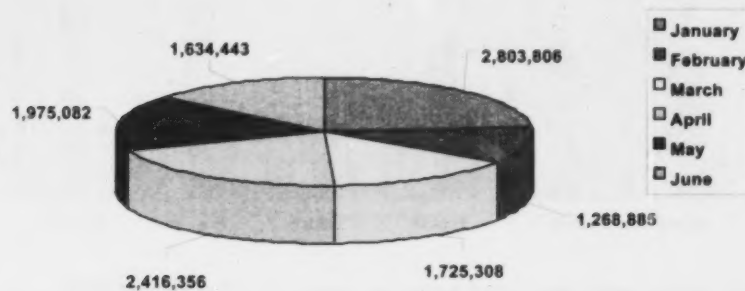
30. Parallel efforts are proceeding with the Information Technology Services Division in the Office of Information and Communications Technology for the implementation of the enterprise content management system, which includes a Web component. Its implementation, expected in 2009, will assist in the enforcement of agreed standards and ensure uniformity of statistics and efficient analysis of website usage.

Accessibility for persons with disabilities

31. The Department is continuing its efforts to ensure accessibility of the United Nations website in the six official languages by persons with disabilities. The objective of the Department of Public Information is to comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)

standards, which at the present time are the only standards enjoying worldwide recognition. Currently, all new pages created by the Web Services Section are compliant with level 1, and most comply with level 2 of the Consortium Guidelines.⁵ In order to assist other departments and offices in producing accessible Web content, the Web Services Section created a special website, www.un.org/webaccessibility/, which contains, in part, a set of guidelines developed by a Section task force. These guidelines are aimed at promoting compliance with accessibility requirements, monitoring progress in achieving this goal and serving as a teaching aid for webmasters and related staff.

Figure III
Video views, 2008



Internet broadcasting

32. During the first half of 2008, live and archived videos produced by UN Webcast (www.un.org/webcast) registered a total of 11,823,880 video views by visitors from 203 countries and territories (see figure III). The e-mail webcast alert system gained 1,000 new subscribers, representing a trend that should enable UN Webcast to quickly restore the database of subscribers which had experienced a 20 per cent drop, compared with last year, owing to a technical maintenance problem. The sessions of the Human Rights Council (Geneva), the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Ghana) and the recently concluded high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council (New York), focusing on the 2008 annual ministerial review, were among the major conferences for which comprehensive webcast coverage was provided.

C. Radio, television and photo services

United Nations Radio

33. Striving to make full use of the latest advances in communications and Internet technologies, the Department continued to pursue a two-pronged approach aimed at

⁵ In order to comply with Web content accessibility requirements, all level 1 checkpoints *must* be satisfied. Otherwise, one or more groups will find it impossible to access information in a given document. Level 2 checkpoints *should* be satisfied in order to remove significant barriers to accessing Web documents.

delivering its radio programming to the broadest possible range of audiences. On the one hand, it worked to expand its partnerships with international broadcasters in the six official languages, as well as in Portuguese and Kiswahili. At the same time, it relied on the Internet as an effective means of bringing audio content to its listeners around the world, in part through the launch of a redesigned United Nations Radio website in seven language versions: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese. The fact that proceedings in the Security Council, the General Assembly and other forums, as well as press conferences, are now available on the Web in broadcast quality for use by media organizations has enabled the Department to phase out audiocassettes from its distribution pattern. The Department also posts its programming on the United Nations Radio website in four languages of Asia, namely, Bangla, Hindi, Urdu and Indonesian, and in French Creole. Further:

- During the 2008 events in Kenya, the Kiswahili unit of United Nations Radio began a daily five-minute news programme to update audiences in the region on the latest developments. This programme proved very popular with local radio stations, with new affiliates signing up to carry it. As the global food crisis came to the fore of the United Nations agenda, United Nations Radio produced a seven-part series that showed the human face of the crisis and highlighted the challenges facing the international community as it took steps to tackle the problem.

United Nations Television

34. In June 2008, the Department launched the UNifeed service on the Web, enabling broadcasters to easily download broadcast-quality video for their immediate use. This initiative is opening up a new means to distribute United Nations television clips from Headquarters, agencies and peacekeeping missions with suggested story lines and shot lists. UNifeed is thus reaching not only more broadcasters, but also many websites requiring moving images. Further:

- UNifeed made available the exclusive United Nations Television coverage of the return of the Secretary-General to his hometown during his recent official visit to the Republic of Korea.

35. Online video distribution will also make United Nations Television products more readily available to United Nations offices as they adapt to this new Web-based distribution. Since the deployment of the UNifeed service, 78 users have registered, and the feedback from broadcasters and press agencies such as Associated Press Television, Reuters Television, the BBC and the South African Broadcasting Corporation have confirmed their keen interest in it. To ensure the UNifeed service's full reliability and speedy performance, the Department has invested in a premier hosting service with server access nodes around the world designed to resolve the issue of video downloads which require large bandwidth capacities.

36. To capitalize on the latest trends in online distribution of video content, the Department has formed a creative partnership with YouTube/Google, leading to the creation of a branded United Nations Television channel scheduled to be launched in August. In a related effort, the Department worked with YouTube on a campaign in connection with the upcoming High-level Event on the Millennium Development

Goals, to broaden awareness of the Goals, especially among young audiences (see also box IV).

Box IV

Crossing the Divide

Crossing the Divide, featured in the Department of Public Information's monthly magazine television programme, *21st Century*, concerns a father in one of the refugee camps in Western Sahara and his daughter. As a result of a protracted territorial conflict, they had remained separated for almost 30 years. With the help of the United Nations, the two were finally reunited. When the story of their dramatic union was shown, people in many countries were deeply moved. Tova Biala of the Israeli Broadcasting Authority, in a thank you note to the Department of Public Information, noted that the story was "very touching and sensitively dealt (with)".

21st Century is now carried by more than 50 broadcasters, including BBC World, RTVE (Spain) and Fuji TV (Japan). Another staple television product of the Department, the *UN in Action* series of reports about the work of the United Nations and its agencies, continued to be featured by nearly 40 broadcasters around the globe.

D. United Nations photo and video materials

37. As part of the preparatory work for the sixtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, archival photo, film and video materials have been retrieved for an array of projects developed in connection with the anniversary events. The Department of Public Information also worked closely with the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to restore all archival materials of legal relevance. At the same time, in cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department gained access to high-resolution images from various peacekeeping missions.

38. The Department also installed state-of-the-art high-definition electronic photo and video displays in several high-traffic areas of the Secretariat building. The electronic boards now include UNifeed programmes, themed slide shows, wrap-ups of the latest news developments, and public service announcements. At the same time, the Department continued to mount photo exhibitions at United Nations Headquarters highlighting the Organization's key priorities.

E. UN News Centre

39. As part of its efforts to enhance performance of the UN News Centre in all official languages, the Department launched a redesigned French version of the site, in April, while work continued on the development of similar redesigns in other official languages. The English site registered over 1 million unique visitors in April, a pattern of usage that has been sustained in subsequent months despite

periodic problems of access to database-driven content. The Department has worked to resolve this problem in cooperation with the Information Technology Services Division. Other forms of news distribution featured on the UN News Centre, such as Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds, also showed steady growth. The number of subscribers to the associated e-mail news alerts service continued to grow, reaching 54,000 (English and French).

F. Placement of op-ed articles

40. The Department of Public Information continued to provide assistance in the placement of articles by senior United Nations officials in newspapers and in other media outlets around the world. Through the combined efforts of its staff in New York and at United Nations information centres, during the first half of 2008, 17 op-ed pieces, 9 of them by the Secretary-General, were published. The articles, which addressed many of the most urgent challenges facing the international community, appeared in a total of 277 newspapers around the globe in a wide range of languages. In particular:

- The Secretary-General's op-ed highlighting the challenges posed by the growing food crisis, entitled "The new face of global hunger", was carried by 41 newspapers on all continents.

G. Other services to media

Press releases

41. The Department continued to provide fast, accurate, balanced and comprehensive coverage, in the form of press releases, of all open intergovernmental meetings as well as press conferences, at Headquarters and in other locations. In the first six months of 2008, the Department produced a total of 2,113 such releases (8,732 pages) in English and French, including end-of-year round-ups of Security Council and General Assembly actions, which were distributed in hard copy and on the Internet. Over the past year, the Department held separate structured group discussions with key users of United Nations press releases: Member States, the media and non-governmental organizations. The discussions were part of an overall effort to solicit views on restructuring and updating the press release database so as to make its website more user-friendly and improve its access and search functions.

Press accreditation

42. In another vital service provided to the press, from January to June 2008, the Department issued 389 permanent and 604 temporary press accreditations, performed 2,775 liaison assignments, and distributed 130 media alerts to media organizations, mission press attachés and others in the United Nations system. The Department conducted 23 tours for groups of students and professional journalists and provided information and logistic assistance for 348 media stake-outs. During that period, 192 press conferences/briefings were held and attended by 4,963 journalists.

Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About

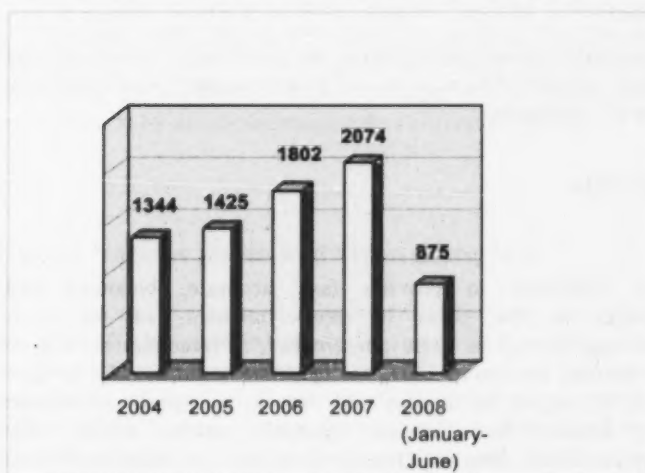
43. In March 2008, the Department issued its fourth annual list of "Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About", an initiative with the potential to capture the attention of a broad spectrum of media outlets around the world. The 2007 list covered a range of issues and geographical regions, some of which drew on humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations, while others focused on progress being made in protecting human rights or on efforts to combat diseases and epidemics.

IV. Outreach and knowledge-sharing services

A. Library and knowledge services

Figure IV

Participants in library training programmes, 2004-2008



44. The Department of Public Information, through its Personal Knowledge Management programme and through direct research support services of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, has been addressing the information needs of Secretariat and mission staff in a way that is customized for the user (see also figure IV). The Personal Knowledge Management initiative helps individuals understand how to better create, manage and access information and improve their utilization of the vast array of technology and information tools at their disposal. In 2008, training programmes were revised in response to the needs of clients and now include courses on the documents of the General Assembly and Security Council and on retrieving country information as well as introductory and advanced sessions on United Nations documentation. In preparation for the implementation of the capital master plan, consultations with Secretariat offices needing assistance in organizing their collections of United Nations documents are being provided as part of the library and knowledge services.

45. Access to high-quality information resources via electronic means continues to be facilitated by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, through the management of the United Nations System Electronic Information Acquisition Consortium. Resources are made available to users at Headquarters and worldwide through United Nations system offices. Electronic access will be especially crucial during the implementation of the capital master plan.

46. Providing access to important historic United Nations documentation remains a priority, which includes the objective of completing the digitization of all major Security Council documents by the end of March 2009. Close cooperation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the United Nations Secretariat has increased the speed of digitization and has also prevented duplication of work.

iSeek

47. Further progress has been made in the direction of carrying out the One United Nations initiative through internal communications designed for the Secretariat. iSeek, the Secretariat intranet, is now launched as the default home page at most major duty stations, including Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Geneva, Nairobi, New York, Santiago and Vienna. The next steps will focus on improving access by the smaller regional offices and ensuring access to the main iSeek content by funds and programmes, as well as by Member States.

Depository libraries

48. Over the past three years, the depository library programme has coordinated a series of regional workshops promoting a new direction for the programme and giving increased focus to information outreach and new roles for libraries as United Nations partners. The most recent programme, with the support of the School of International Relations, State University of Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, in June 2008, brought together national and depository library directors from 11 countries in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and staff of United Nations Information Centre, Moscow and United Nations Office, Minsk, to encourage the promotion and sharing of information on and knowledge of the United Nations.

B. Outreach services

Relations of the Department of Public Information with non-governmental organizations

49. In the first half of 2008, the Department of Public Information associated 13 new non-governmental organizations, bringing the total number of non-governmental organizations associated with the Department to 1,664 as of July 2008. The NGO/DPI Executive Committee, an 18-member committee elected by the non-governmental organizations associated with the Department, acts as the liaison between the community of non-governmental organizations and the Department. The Department holds an annual three-day communications workshop and organizes the Annual DPI/NGO Conference in partnership with the Committee.

50. The sixty-first Annual DPI/NGO Conference, with the participation of non-governmental organizations associated with the Department of Public Information, will be held in Paris at UNESCO headquarters from 3 to 5 September 2008. This year's Conference, whose theme is "Reaffirming Human Rights for All: the Universal Declaration at 60", is being organized in partnership with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, UNESCO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Government of France.

51. The Department of Public Information also continued to hold weekly briefings for non-governmental organizations, providing them with a forum within which to exchange views on issues closely identified with the work of the United Nations worldwide. Briefings were held on a wide range of subjects, including inhuman labour practices, investing in women and girls, climate change and its impact on indigenous peoples, and the transatlantic slave trade.

Journalists' Fellowship Programme

52. For the twenty-eighth consecutive year, the Department will bring a group of journalists from developing countries to New York in September-October 2008 to participate in the Reham Al-Farra Memorial Journalists' Fellowship Programme. The six-week Programme familiarizes junior and mid-level journalists with the work of the United Nations while giving them an opportunity to serve as temporary United Nations correspondents for their home media organizations. Countries selected for this year's programme are Bahrain, Brazil, Gabon, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kiribati, Mauritania, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Somalia, South Africa, Turkey and Turkmenistan. Since its inception in 1981, 388 journalists from 159 countries have participated in the Programme.

UN Works programme

53. The UN Works website has been redesigned and expanded as a platform for enabling the general public and key constituents, including United Nations organizations, UNICs, non-governmental organizations, grass-roots organizations, schools and advocacy groups, to share their stories and experiences on key issues in the United Nations agenda. Special web features include downloadable classroom resources, videos and advocacy toolkits.

The Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme

54. The Department held its third annual observance of the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, with a ceremony and concert featuring the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music Symphony Orchestra, Tel Aviv University, in cooperation with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, along with a lecture on the theme "Civic Responsibility and the Preservation of Democratic Values". Four exhibitions were mounted (see also box V): the exhibition produced by the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme, which presented an overview of the tragedy in the context of the Second World War and the founding of the United Nations; the exhibition entitled "BESA: A Code of Honour: Muslim Albanians who Rescued Jews during the Holocaust", co-sponsored by Yad Vashem and the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations; the exhibition entitled "Carl Lutz and the Legendary Glass House in Budapest", co-sponsored by the Carl Lutz Foundation and the Permanent Missions of Hungary and Switzerland to the

United Nations; and the exhibition of Gennady Dobrov's "Memorial Drawings: Remembering the Holocaust Victims and their Liberators", co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations in cooperation with United Nations Information Centre, Moscow. In addition, the film entitled *Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport*, released by Warner Brothers, was screened.

55. The Department of Public Information also organized three week-long regional seminars on the history of the Holocaust and genocide prevention for United Nations information centres. Fully funded through extrabudgetary sources, these seminars will help United Nations information centre information officers raise awareness of the relevance of the Holocaust today and organize outreach activities that promote respect for diversity and human rights.

56. The programme's annual seminar on combating hatred held at United Nations Headquarters in November 2007 featured the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, who also contributed a discussion paper to the programme's series, as did Elie Wiesel, Nobel laureate, and Professor Edward Kissi of Ghana.

Box V

Holocaust commemoration stamp

At a press conference held at United Nations Headquarters on 28 January 2008, the Department of Public Information, in association with the United Nations Postal Administration, launched the Holocaust commemorative stamp. As issued by the Postal Administration, the stamp is available in English, French and German at United Nations Headquarters in New York and at the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna. Israel launched a national stamp on the same day, with a similar design based on the award-winning Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme logo.

Outreach Programme of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

57. The Department established the new Outreach Programme of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, as called for in General Assembly resolution 62/122 of 17 December 2007, with the aim of breaking the silence on slavery and the 400-year-long transatlantic slave trade, and educating present and future generations about its causes, consequences, lessons and legacy. A series of events were undertaken beginning on 25 March 2008, with a solemn ceremony on the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, at which the keynote address was delivered by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Goodwill Ambassador Harry Belafonte. A joint exhibition was mounted in the Visitors' Lobby under the themes "The Middle Passage: White Ships/Black Cargo" and "Amistad: The Story". The Department also convened a panel discussion and premiered the UNESCO film entitled *The Slave Route: A Global Vision*. It also hosted a book-signing and meet-the-author event with Dr. Verene Shepherd in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library auditorium. In addition,

the Department organized a global videoconference that involved young people aboard the Freedom Schooner *Amistad* who were retracing the slave trade route; experts and students in Canada, Cape Verde, Norway, Sierra Leone, Saint Lucia and the United Kingdom and at United Nations Headquarters; and students and classrooms connected through the Internet.

58. A commemorative poster entitled "Breaking the Silence on the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Lest We Forget" was distributed through the network of United Nations information centres and a songwriting competition was launched.⁶

Working with students

59. This year, the Department organized a student videoconference for the observance of World Environment Day 2008, bringing together students from high schools in Australia, Canada, Malaysia and the United States with students assembled at United Nations Headquarters. The event focused on innovative youth projects that are contributing to a reduction of greenhouse gases. A student videoconference is planned to mark the International Day of Peace on 21 September, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, peacekeeping missions and the Messengers of Peace programme.

60. The United Nations CyberSchoolBus website (www.un.org/cyberschoolbus), which is part of the Department's Global Teaching and Learning Project, remains central to education outreach activities for youth. The site continued to develop its use of live video chats, as an alternative to videoconferences, on a wide range of topics including human rights, disarmament, climate change, humanitarian aid, and youth issues. In addition, it launched a new educational site for secondary schools on disarmament and non-proliferation in partnership with the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

Guided tours and briefings for visitors

61. In respect of guided tours many changes were implemented this year. As part of an effort to provide guides with better contractual arrangements, the operation began a transition to working with a smaller crew of full-time staff. This led to the switch to a five-day operation (Monday through Friday) and a reduction in the number of visitors who could be accommodated for guided tours. The Department is working with the Department of Management and the architects of its capital master plan to ensure that the guided tours operation continues while the renovation of United Nations Headquarters is under way. A new route was launched on 1 August, owing to those renovations.

62. In conjunction with guided tours, visiting groups often request briefings by United Nations officials on a wide range of United Nations-related topics. These briefings, as well as outside speaking engagements and videoconferences, are organized by the Department, which manages the United Nations Speakers Bureau. From 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, it organized 509 in-house briefings, 49 outside speaking engagements and 25 videoconferences.

⁶ For additional information, please see the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery" (A/63/213).

63. The Department of Public Information is also responsible for the visitors services at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna. The United Nations Information Service, Geneva continued to serve about 100,000 visitors annually. A survey conducted at the end of 2006 revealed that the majority of visitors had found the guided tour to be a rewarding and informative experience. At the Vienna International Centre, during the first seven months of 2008, the United Nations Information Service, Vienna conducted guided tours for 29,071 visitors and arranged 174 lectures. At the United Nations complex in Nairobi, between January and July 2008, 525 visitors took guided tours and attended special briefings.

Exhibitions

64. During this period, 14 exhibitions were displayed in the Visitors' Lobby, including two General Assembly-mandated exhibitions, related to the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme, and the Outreach Programme of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

C. Print and online products

UN Chronicle

65. The first issue of *UN Chronicle* in 2008, entitled "Partnership for Development", was an in-depth look at the eighth Millennium Development Goal. It followed up on Issue 4, 2007, which had examined progress in achieving the first seven Goals by 2015. The *UN Chronicle* print and online editions also extensively covered the activities of the General Assembly and disseminated articles and educational links through thematic *UN Chronicle* e-alerts. From January to June 2008, the *UN Chronicle* online edition in English registered 907,929 page views, while the French online version, *Chronique ONU: édition en ligne*, registered 367,764 page views.

66. Taking note of the fact that the General Assembly has welcomed the movement towards educational outreach and the orientation of the *UN Chronicle*, in both the print and online editions, the Department proposes to build upon the extensive academic outreach potential inherent in the *UN Chronicle* by phasing it into a journal entitled "UN Affairs". A pilot edition of "UN Affairs" is in preparation and will be ready for further consideration by Member States in advance of the consideration of the item "Questions relating to information" in October 2008 by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee). The treatment of topics in "UN Affairs" by international experts would be a more in-depth one and would be oriented towards offering solutions and alternatives. With "UN Affairs", the Department intends to achieve a closer involvement of key audiences that have a role in effectively articulating the Organization's mandate, work and ideals.

Yearbook of the United Nations

67. The Department of Public Information will launch an online version of the *Yearbook of the United Nations* this year. The website, with its easy to use and user-friendly search engine, will open up all 59 editions of the *Yearbook* published so far to an even wider target audience.

Basic Facts About the United Nations

68. *Basic Facts About the United Nations*, now thoroughly revised and expanded, has been published in English under the new title *The United Nations Today*. Editions in French and Spanish are in preparation.

Graphic design

69. Visual branding remains an essential aspect of United Nations global communication campaigns. Graphic designers have made significant contributions, including the cover of the report of the MDG Africa Steering Group, a press kit for "Democracy and the United Nations", and posters for the Nobel Peace Prize timeline, and the International Day of Peace, as well as a visual identifier for the Annual DPI/NGO Conference whose theme will be the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

D. Sales and marketing

70. An important new pricing policy for United Nations publications has been introduced by the Department. This three-tier policy, while retaining the current level of pricing in developed countries, will allow for more affordable pricing in developing and least developed countries. The sales price in these countries will be reduced by 50 and 75 per cent, respectively, with the aim of making publications more economical and readily accessible to educational institutions, students, teachers and researchers. In addition to introducing the new policy, the Department distributed 50,000 copies of its publications catalogue, disseminated mini-catalogues on human rights, Millennium Development Goals, water, Africa and teacher resources, and exhibited at a number of international book fairs.

71. The Department had completed a major renovation of the Bookshop in the Palais des Nations in Geneva, with the store reopening on schedule in May. The new layout will allow for a more effective display of products and more sales space. The remodelling coincided with a cooperative marketing campaign with the Geneva Tourist Board to promote both the Visitors Service and the Bookshop.

72. In an initiative to increase the dissemination of the Organization's legal publications, the Department has established a co-publishing venture with a major international legal publisher. Not only will the publisher promote an online service that includes both current and historical publications of the Office of Legal Affairs, the International Court of Justice and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, but it will also send digital copies back to the United Nations for its own use in developing further outreach products.

V. A culture of evaluation

73. The Department continues to foster a culture of evaluation by increasing the number of evaluation projects that it completes each year and by providing training for staff on survey research, polling data and media analysis. Recently, it has strengthened its partnership with an international polling organization, WorldPublicOpinion.org, so as to ensure that it regularly receives global polling data and analysis on a pro bono basis. This partnership gives the Department the

opportunity to provide input on question formulation for worldwide polls. The Department is also working to improve its data-collection tools. For example, internal software tools are being developed that will enable more sophisticated web traffic evaluations.

74. The Department's annual programme impact review evaluates specific programmes and, from that evaluation, derives lessons and action points for application by programme managers. For example, an evaluation of the online teaching and learning project United Nations CyberSchoolBus elicited information about how teachers and other clients use the site and how its content and functionality can be improved. The evaluation also pointed to the need for continuing outreach efforts to ministries of education that promote the inclusion of teaching about the United Nations into the national curricula of Member States. Another evaluation consisting of media analyses on major climate change events enabled the Department and partner organizations to assess how key messages were disseminated by the media worldwide, and showed that a coordinated communications policy helped the United Nations "deliver as one". Lessons learned will guide the United Nations Communications Group on future communications strategies for upcoming events.

75. More recently, feedback from participants at the seventh annual meeting of the United Nations Communications Group held in Paris in June 2008 indicated that the meeting had been relevant to the communications work of its member organizations, and useful, in particular, for the networking opportunities that the meeting had provided. Survey results also indicated that focused sessions on, for example, case studies and lessons learned, that could lead to clearer communications strategies, would be valuable.

VI. Conclusions

76. The Department of Public Information, committed to achieving the greatest public impact, continues to tell the United Nations story by strategically communicating the work and purposes of the United Nations through innovative and creative means. This approach is driven by careful identification of its target audience, enhanced use of new information and communications technologies, and expanded partnerships with civil society. A culture of evaluation that emphasizes results-based performance is also helping the Department calibrate its products and activities more closely to the needs of its target audience.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 August 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session

Item 67 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The Secretary-General submits the present report in response to General Assembly resolution 62/151, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek further the views of Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system on the issue of globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights and to submit a substantive report on this subject to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session. The report summarizes views received from the Governments of Algeria, Belarus, Mauritius, the Russian Federation, Spain and Venezuela and from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. The report also includes contributions by Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland and Oman submitted in response to a similar request (pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/156), which, due to their late submission, were not included in the report of the Secretary-General in 2007 (A/62/222).

* A/63/150.



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	3
II. Replies received from Governments	3
Algeria	3
Azerbaijan	5
Belarus	7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8
Ireland	8
Mauritius	9
Oman	10
Russian Federation	11
Spain	12
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	14
III. Replies received from United Nations organizations	16

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 62/151, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/62/222) and requested the Secretary-General to seek further the views of Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system and to submit a substantive report on this subject to the Assembly at its sixty-third session.
2. Pursuant to that request, on 7 April 2008, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) sent a request for views on this issue. As of 1 August 2008, OHCHR had received responses from the Governments of Algeria, Belarus, Mauritius, the Russian Federation, Spain and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. The report also includes contributions by the Governments of Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland and Oman, submitted in response to a similar request of 17 April 2007, which, due to their late submission, were not included in the report of the Secretary-General of 2007 (A/62/222).

II. Replies received from Governments

Algeria

[Original: French]
[9 July 2008]

1. The Government of Algeria stated that globalization had mainly benefited a limited number of developed countries. Algeria, like other developing countries, had felt the impact of globalization, especially in the context of reforms such as price liberalization, abandonment of price supports and the opening up of the economy, which had undermined progress in the area of social welfare.
2. In that connection, Algeria highlighted that, in compliance with the obligation assumed at the World Summit for Social Development, it had incorporated a social dimension in its macroeconomic policy. The Government further provided details of economic, social, legislative and judicial measures aimed at alleviating the impact of the diverse consequences of globalization.
3. Furthermore, Algeria referred to its national social solidarity policy, which was both a preventive and curative policy based on aid and assistance measures with the goal of safeguarding population groups affected by certain problems arising from the social and economic environment, and ensuring that they did not fall victim to long-term exclusion and marginalization.
4. Algeria also described the State's social assistance which was based on the following two schemes: the lump-sum solidarity benefit and the general-interest activity allowance. Those schemes were said to be designed to prevent all forms of marginalization and social exclusion of disadvantaged and vulnerable population groups (including people with disabilities and children in institutional care) through the organization of socio-occupational integration activities, the transfer of income in the form of benefits or allowances, and other benefits, such as free access to road and rail transport.

5. In addition, Algeria provided information on its network of 258 specialized public and private establishments throughout the national territory that provided accommodation, food, medical and educational psychology services, schooling, training and socio-occupational integration services for persons with sensory disabilities (blind and deaf), motor and mental disabilities, and respiratory impairments, young people at moral risk, abandoned children, older persons and persons with incapacitating diseases.

6. Algeria noted that new support programmes had been developed for people living in precarious conditions, victims of national tragedy and disasters. Those programmes were implemented by SAMU Social Algérie, which provided medical, psychological and follow-up care for homeless people in emergency and post-emergency situations, children at moral risk, street children, women in difficulty, etc. Algeria further highlighted the following measures of solidarity that have been taken on behalf of insecure or vulnerable individuals and families:

(a) "Ramadhan" solidarity schemes. Meals are served in restaurants and baskets of groceries have been distributed to needy families throughout the national territory;

(b) Educational solidarity schemes. Educational allowances are granted to schoolchildren with disabilities, in troubled social circumstances or from needy families;

(c) Schemes for the distribution of school kits to schoolchildren from needy families;

(d) School transport schemes, principally for children living in remote areas;

(e) Schemes to provide schools with canteens;

(f) Schemes to provide schools with humidifiers and central heating;

(g) Organization of holiday camps in specialized establishments for children from the Saharan region (the Grand Sud) and children from the governorates affected by natural disasters (earthquakes);

(h) Solidarity with the students from the Grand Sud through the purchase of transport tickets;

(i) Organization of therapeutic groups for children affected by psychotraumatic experiences;

(j) Purchase of drugs for people suffering from chronic diseases;

(k) Coverage of health expenses incurred by needy persons without social insurance;

(l) Support and assistance measures on behalf of socio-humanitarian associations, involving financial and technical assistance and support for the implementation of social and humanitarian projects.

7. Moreover, Algeria described its action plan to fight against poverty (2001-2005) which provided for the implementation of five pilot projects for community development and social support and could be divided into three broad categories:

(a) Direct support for local authorities so that they can respond to urgent needs of populations in difficulty;

(b) Funding of integrated local development projects designed to launch and/or boost sustainable development initiatives in areas contending with precarious conditions;

(c) Development of outreach action to ensure more effective targeting of needs in the most vulnerable areas.

8. The Government of Algeria also referred to its programme for the implementation of community development projects — mainly hydraulics, electrification, health, public works and socio-educational facilities — which was based on targeting disadvantaged areas and the neediest segments of the population; identification of projects with the assistance of the population and their representatives; encouragement of beneficiaries to make a 10 per cent financial contribution to the cost of the project as evidence of their interest; and execution of small-scale projects to meet basic community concerns.

9. Algeria also noted its employment promotion programmes, in the form of microcredit financing, intended for persons with no income or with a low, unstable or irregular income, with the aim of promoting social development through economic activity and fighting unemployment and poverty by offering assistance (small-scale loans).

Azerbaijan

[Original: Russian]

[8 August 2007]

1. The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan stated that the protection of human and civil rights and freedoms was key to the existence of a democratic and rule-of-law State. It also noted that on the basis of market relations, the Government is creating conditions for economic development, guaranteeing freedom of enterprise and looking to improve the well-being of the nation and all its citizens, ensure their social welfare and afford them a decent standard of living. Azerbaijan stated that they are promoting the development of culture, education, health care, science and art and protecting the country's flora and fauna, and its historical, physical and spiritual heritage.

2. Azerbaijan also highlighted the constitutional rights concerning non-discrimination, economic development, employment, social security, culture, health protection and medical care and education.

3. Moreover, Azerbaijan provided information on a series of legislative Acts that address a wide range of issues. For example, the Act on Indexation of Citizens' Cash Income and Savings establishes the organizational and legal foundations for indexation of Azerbaijanis' cash income and savings to reflect rises in prices for consumer goods and charges for paid services. The Business Activity Act sets forth the principles for business activity in Azerbaijan and establishes the rights and obligations of economic actors, the forms and modalities of State protection and promotion of business, and the relationship between entrepreneurs and government bodies. Azerbaijan also referred to the Azerbaijani National Security Act, the Culture Act and the Environmental Safety Act.

4. The Government of Azerbaijan highlighted its policies to ensure effective and freely chosen employment for its citizens, and stated that the main aims of its government employment policy are:

(a) To ensure equal opportunities for all citizens, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, language, sex, family status, social origin, place of residence, property status, beliefs, or membership of political parties, trade unions or other civic organizations, with a view to realizing the right to work and free choice of employment;

(b) To support citizens' lawful labour and entrepreneurial initiatives and to provide them with assistance, with a view to developing business activity;

(c) To create conditions in which citizens can freely express their will when choosing a career and type of employment;

(d) To ensure social welfare for the unemployed and to take special measures to promote employment for citizens experiencing difficulties in finding work;

(e) To coordinate efforts on employment with economic and social policy;

(f) To provide tax and other incentives for employers who create jobs, particularly, for citizens in need of social protection and those experiencing difficulties in finding work;

(g) To coordinate efforts by government bodies, trade unions and employer associations to develop and apply measures aimed at guaranteeing employment, and to monitor their implementation;

(h) To create conditions in which Azerbaijani citizens can work abroad and stateless and foreign nationals can work in Azerbaijan;

(i) To ensure compliance with international labour standards.

5. Azerbaijan further described its Minimum Subsistence Act, which establishes the principles and rules for fixing the minimum subsistence level, as well as for its guarantee by the Government and its increase in line with the country's social and economic development.

6. Azerbaijan also provided information on its Targeted State Social Assistance Act which governs the purposes of and principles for providing such assistance, the legal framework for setting social assistance rates and other necessary arrangements in that area. Article 3 of the Act accords the right to social assistance of low-income families whose average monthly income, for reasons beyond their control, is lower than the aggregate of the qualifying thresholds for each family member. Azerbaijan stated that a law had entered into force on 1 January 2007 setting the country's 2007 subsistence minimum at an average of 64 Azerbaijani manats per capita: 70 manats for the working-age population, 49.7 manats for pensioners and 52.4 manats for children.

7. Furthermore, Azerbaijan noted the adoption of development programmes in various sectors to address the problem of poverty. The Azerbaijan Food Security Programme was said to aim at extending the scope of the country's economic reforms, increasing agricultural production and improving the food supply. The State Poverty Reduction and Economic Development Programme, is aimed at strengthening social welfare, ensuring the application of the necessary measures to

reduce the level of poverty in the country and, in so doing, fulfilling the commitments made at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000.

8. Azerbaijan further highlighted other programmes, such as the Government Regional Social and Economic Development Programme, aimed at increasing agricultural production, ensuring the development of production sectors, including the manufacturing industry, the service sector, other infrastructure sectors and tourism, raising the level of employment, and improving living standards.

9. Azerbaijan also stressed the importance of its programme to improve living conditions and increase employment among refugees and displaced persons; the General Education Schools information and communication technology Programme; the State Demographic and Population Development Programme to ensure the development of demographic processes in line with the country's social and economic strategy; the State Migration Programme, and the Preschool Education Renewal programme to establish a system of preschool education in Azerbaijan that meets today's needs and international standards.

Belarus

[Original: Russian]
[16 June 2008]

1. The Government of Belarus noted that globalization led to the increased effectiveness of the use of existing natural, material and human resources to ensure world economic growth, to improve people's well-being and, in the end, to strengthen the prerequisites for the full enjoyment of human rights.

2. Belarus stated that, at the same time, a negative aspect and consequence of globalization was the increasing disparity in countries' economic growth rates and, as a result, in the standard of living of their populations. Belarus stated that small, vulnerable developing countries that lacked comparative advantages over other countries, as well as assistance from the international community, were not in a position to reap the benefits of globalization and thereby ensure the full enjoyment of human rights. Belarus stressed that this should be taken into account by United Nations organizations and agencies that provide assistance programmes to developing countries.

3. Furthermore, Belarus noted that there were many examples that demonstrated that, in isolated instances, globalization contributed to the exacerbation of phenomena and processes that had a negative impact on the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In particular, Belarus highlighted the intensification of migration flows and stated that, in spite of the benefits of migration, which contributed to the growth of investments in the form of monetary remittances to developing countries, the intensification of migration flows was linked to an increase in transborder crime, terrorism, the spread of narcotics and trafficking in persons, which directly hindered the enjoyment of human rights throughout the world.

4. Belarus also submitted that, sometimes, the most economically developed and powerful countries, making use of their dominant position in the international trade and financial systems as a result of globalization, took advantage of their unique opportunities, not to support the world's less developed and vulnerable countries,

but to create artificial barriers to the exercising by those countries of their right to development. According to Belarus, this was done in order to exert economic and political pressure on sovereign, independent States with a view to achieving the narrow political interests of today's dominant countries.

5. In that connection, Belarus noted that it was therefore important to develop, at the international level, a mechanism that was capable, not of hindering globalization, but of adjusting and guiding that process, taking account of the real capabilities, needs and requirements of all the countries of the world, including the least developed countries and the countries most vulnerable to the consequences of globalization. Belarus stated that the United Nations and its specialized agencies and institutions should play a central role in developing and implementing such a mechanism.

6. Finally, Belarus noted that the United Nations should also become a forum that had real authority to prevent the establishment of the diktat of the most economically powerful countries and their exertion of pressure on sovereign, independent States for political reasons by using the additional economic leverage that they had acquired as a result of globalization.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Original: English]
[8 August 2007]

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted that the process of globalization of society (from economic-social, legal-political and cultural aspects alike), should follow basic postulates of international law, that is, the principle of equality before the law (through multilateral and bilateral agreements), strengthen the treatment of human rights in an equitable and equal manner and reduce the gap between rich and poor, in order to enable developing countries to participate more equitably in the globalized new world order.

2. Bosnia and Herzegovina also stated that the globalization process should contribute to the preservation of a rich and diverse cultural heritage for the well-being of mankind as a whole, since all world cultures share a joint cultural heritage.

Ireland

[Original: English]
[8 August 2007]

1. In its reply, the Government of Ireland recognized that globalization was not merely an economic process, but that it also had social, political, environmental, cultural and legal dimensions, which had an impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights.

2. Ireland noted that the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of human rights was particularly relevant in the context of poverty alleviation, which was a major concern of the international community. Ireland emphasized its commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and to reaching the target of contributing at least 0.7 per cent of gross national product

(GNP) each year on official development assistance to which it committed itself at the United Nations Millennium Review Summit in September 2005.

3. Ireland also stated that, with a view to meeting those commitments, its *White Paper on Irish Aid*, published in September 2006, mapped out the priority areas of work for the Government of Ireland's programme of assistance to developing countries (Irish Aid) into the future. According to Ireland, the White Paper noted that the fortunes of all peoples and States were increasingly bound together through the process of globalization and that Irish Aid programmes and projects should further the realization of human rights.

4. With a view to optimizing the economic aspects of globalization, Ireland's trade strategy, entitled *Trading for Economic and Social Development*, published in June 2005, outlined the National Agenda for Developing Countries and stated that the Government of Ireland was strongly committed to the multilateral and consensual nature of the World Trade Organization process being maintained and strengthened. It reported that the strategy also set out Ireland's commitment to the obligation to ensure that developing countries had access to adequate resources to most effectively develop and communicate their trade policies and the negotiating capacity that they required to participate effectively in trade negotiations. To that end, since 2000, Ireland had provided support to the major international organizations involved in trade-related technical assistance/capacity-building, including the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund. Finally, Ireland pointed out that the White Paper on Irish Aid included a commitment to increase funding for multilateral Aid for Trade initiatives.

Mauritius

[Original: English]
[25 June 2008]

1. The Government of Mauritius stated that globalization presented both challenges and opportunities to the promotion and safeguarding of human rights. It noted that with rapid progress in information technology and transport, national boundaries had become meaningless, thus giving any individual or group the possibility of evading the national shackles of seclusion, exclusion and discrimination and evolve globally with undenied rights.

2. Mauritius also noted that globalization unleashed the rights and opportunities to freedom of expression, access to information and services and the possibility of remedying any injustices and discrimination by alerting world opinion. Mauritius further stated that the same globalization might pose a serious threat to a society and thus jeopardize basic human rights if the people of that society were not equipped mentally, educationally, scientifically and technologically to face the new ways of life.

3. Moreover, the Government of Mauritius stated that the digital divide, technological deficit, illiteracy, poverty and paucity of infrastructure could not help but aggravate the marginalization of the already disadvantaged peoples in society.

Oman

[Original: Arabic]

[16 July 2007]

1. Oman stated that, since the 1970s, the Sultanate had managed to use the benefits of globalization to improve the lot of the Omani population as a result of the policies of His Royal Highness the Sultan, which struck the balance between technology and its benefits and authentic Omani traditions.
2. Oman also addressed the issue of globalization and poverty eradication and noted that there was no abject poverty in the Sultanate, due to social welfare policies. It stated that social issues were incorporated into all economic development plans. Moreover, Oman stated that civil society institutions were a fairly recent innovation in the Sultanate, especially institutions that dealt with poverty.
3. With regard to globalization and education, Oman stated that there had been a marked increase in educational attainment rates among males and females, and further noted that the course of Omani development was predicated upon equal opportunities for men and women in all spheres, women's empowerment and greater involvement of women in different areas so that they could contribute positively to overall development. Oman also recognized that the absence of gender equality in the Sultanate could not be attributed to discrimination in the Basic Law or in State legislation but rather to practices associated with certain traditions and customs that were out of touch with the spirit of the age. It further stated that the competent authorities needed to intensify efforts to improve awareness of women's rights and of all aspects of development among women and society at large.
4. Oman referred to the global development partnership and stressed the importance and necessity of active communication and cultural dialogue between States and other peoples. In that connection, it also provided information on the treaties that the Sultanate had signed and ratified.
5. Oman also addressed the issue of cooperation between the Sultanate and the private sector to benefit from new technology, especially information and communications, and provided detailed figures on the percentage of families owning a telephone line, mobile phone, or computer. It also referred to the impact of globalization on family cohesion and stated that, while changes were taking place in the Omani family because of globalization and its impact in the cultural, social and economic spheres, Omani families were still attached to customs, traditions and Islamic culture.
6. The reply from Oman referred in detail to the effect of globalization on the most socially disadvantaged groups. Oman noted that the scale and type of services offered to persons with disabilities in the Sultanate had developed considerably in the past three decades in the areas of social welfare, health and education. In addition, the Ministry of Social Development, in conjunction with other relevant agencies, offered numerous benefits to families receiving social security and persons with limited incomes with the aim of contributing directly to improving the living standards of these families.
7. The Sultanate provided particular care to orphans with an alternative welfare service in two settings, namely, (a) alternative care in families and (b) children's

welfare homes. Similarly, the reply from Oman described in depth the policies aimed at the care of older persons.

8. With regard to globalization and the Omani economy, Oman noted that investment in human resources was the key determining factor in the process of economic growth and the creation of jobs and was an influential factor in globalization. Oman further stated that the Government's economic policy focused on the challenges of diversifying sources of income and of privatization and attracting investment and foreign capital. According to Oman, although the Government pursued a policy of diversifying sources of income, the non-petroleum sector was still in its infancy and was neither sustainable nor stable. The Sultanate today was using the year 2020 as a benchmark for its policy of privatization and diversification of sources of income.

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]
[26 June 2008]

1. The Russian Federation noted that globalization had both positive and negative aspects and highlighted one of its negative aspects, the growth of economic and social inequality and widening of the income gap between rich and poor. It also stated that the division of the world's countries by level of development had been increasing significantly and that this had resulted in a situation in which millions of people lived in extreme poverty. It also mentioned that this often led to the growth of intolerance and demands for a more equitable division of resources between the developed and developing countries.
2. The Russian Federation further stated that extreme poverty posed a serious threat to the implementation of all human rights and highlighted the efforts of the Russian Federation to reduce poverty, both within the country and abroad; those efforts included taking economic measures to increase financing for social development and sponsoring Human Rights Council resolution 7/27, entitled "Human rights and extreme poverty", respectively.
3. The Russian Federation also referred to the medium-term programme for the social and economic development of the Russian Federation, which contained a special section that set out measures to create conditions for increasing the population's income and reducing poverty, enhancing the effectiveness of the State's social assistance to the needy, and improve the pension system in the Russian Federation. It was also stated that there were plans to reduce poverty in the Russian Federation to a level no higher than 11 per cent by 2010.
4. Furthermore, the Russian Federation referred to the global food crisis as an example of the shortcomings of globalization. It provided information on the main reasons for such a crisis and recognized that the rise in food prices might have a negative impact on economic growth, security and the observance of human rights on a world scale. The Russian Federation further noted that it was symptomatic that the negative impact of the rise in food prices was stronger in developing countries than in developed countries and that it was therefore necessary to make globalization more manageable and equitable.

5. The Russian Federation also referred to the increased influence, within countries and in the national arena, of large non-State actors as a result of globalization, noting that there was a growing tendency for non-State actors to become independent participants in international relations and to assume the functions that formerly fell within the exclusive competence of Governments. In that connection, it also noted that transnational corporations and other large non-State actors as a rule did not bear liability before societies and States; hence, in such cases, one might talk about the erosion of State sovereignty and the simultaneous inability to ensure effective protection of the existing norms of international law.

6. The Russian Federation stressed the importance of providing more attention to the practice by States of transferring certain government functions to non-State actors in order to evade international legal responsibility for their actions. The Russian Federation submitted, as an example, the case of the delegation of the right to use military force to private militarized protection enterprises or to armed groups operating outside the law. The Russian Federation stated that the activities of non-State actors, particularly when they de facto assumed the functions of States, might result in large-scale violations of all human rights.

7. In that connection, the Russian Federation noted that the question of recognizing the responsibility of non-State actors for the human rights violations committed by them, as well as States' deliberate practice of transferring part of their powers to non-State actors with a view to evading responsibility under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, merited further study.

8. The Russian Federation further noted that, in promoting and protecting human rights, it was necessary to take account of the diversity of cultures and civilizations. Thus, it held that while the globalization of information had led to a sharp increase in opportunities for interaction among and interpenetration of diverse cultural and value systems, in order to ensure the dignity of every individual and equal opportunities for the free and harmonious development of the human personality, globalization must not lead to a levelling of the diversity of values and cultures. According to the Russian Federation, interaction among cultures and civilizations must not be replaced by the imposition of a value system characteristic of only one group of States. One way of achieving universal respect for human rights was to deepen understanding of the traditional values of humankind that formed the basis of the modern concept of human rights.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]

[10 June 2008]

1. The reply from Spain concentrated on the effect of globalization on the environment and noted that globalization had become one of the defining processes of the present day and had a major impact on the environment.

2. Spain stated that globalization was having a profound and multifaceted impact on societies throughout the world, resulting in both positive and negative changes in the way that people interacted with each other and with the natural world. It further

highlighted a number of positive effects on economic growth, food production, and conservation of biological diversity.

3. Moreover, in its report, Spain noted the negative effects of globalization. It referred to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Synthesis Report and concluded that globalization, especially with an economic focus, could lead to intense ecosystem degradation. The reply stated that ecosystem degradation combined with population growth and the emerging effects of climate change could have extremely high environmental — and, ultimately, social and economic — costs that could affect world economic growth by up to 20 per cent.

4. Spain also stated that globalization issues have repeatedly been the subject of debate in various environmental forums. In that connection, it recalled the United Nations Millennium Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 55/2, the 2002 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which mentioned globalization on a number of occasions in relation to sustainable development. The reply from Spain paraphrased chapter V of the Johannesburg Plan of Action, which placed particular emphasis on the relationship between globalization and trade and the environment.

5. Spain also referred to other forums that discussed globalization issues: the ministerial-level consultations at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) that dealt with the theme of globalization, ecosystem services and human well-being; and the European Union, under the presidency of Germany, which adopted a common position on that topic. Spain summarized the main points of the said common position, as follows:

(a) Globalization can have both positive and negative aspects. It is important that positive aspects are strengthened and negative aspects minimized, and that a clear link is established between globalization and the development of new environmental governance structures;

(b) This must be achieved by the appropriate use of such market mechanisms as medium- and long-term regulatory frameworks;

(c) Sustainability must be achieved by finding a proper balance between the economic, social and environmental components of development;

(d) There is no fundamental conflict between the economy and the environment. Appropriate tools to promote sustainable globalization already exist. This will require the use of technological development and innovation, with emphasis on greater energy efficiency and increased use of renewable sources of energy;

(e) The participation of all sectors, particularly the private sector, and the effective dissemination of information and technologies, should be encouraged. Existing initiatives in this direction are the United Nations Global Compact and the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

(f) Partnerships and joint activities should be fostered at every level;

(g) Existing market mechanisms should be encouraged and new ones developed. For example, the contribution of ecosystem services is not sufficiently

appreciated nor is it integrated into decision-making. An understanding and adequate use of such tools will enable better use to be made of such principles as "polluter pays" or the internalization of environmental costs;

(h) Informed and participatory decision-making should be ensured and developed at every level. The use of such tools as participatory impact assessment and monitoring or early-warning systems should be encouraged;

(i) It is very important to ensure proper management of material flows and to understand life cycles. In this connection, the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management should be developed;

(j) Support must be given to the developing countries, which are the most likely to be affected by the possible negative effects of globalization. Mechanisms for information or technology transfers and capacity-building should be fostered;

(k) In many cases, international organizations have not adapted adequately to the consequences of globalization. It is therefore essential to strengthen the existing structures of environmental governance, a task that might include the creation of a United Nations environmental organization provided with predictable, stable and adequate financial resources. There should also be closer coordination between the various environmental multilateral treaty bodies and closer cooperation between those bodies and the World Trade Organization.

6. Finally, Spain stated that the issues mentioned in its submission should be borne in mind in any future activities with regard to globalization and the environment deriving from General Assembly resolution 62/151, particularly in the context of paragraphs 7 (relating to environmentally sustainable globalization), 9, 12 and 13 (concerning follow-up activities).

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

[Original: Spanish]
[26 June 2008]

1. In its reply, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela recalled a statement contained in the preliminary report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/55/342), which drew attention to the international legal framework setting out the measures to be taken for the promotion, protection and observance of all human rights, including the right to development in particular, in the context of globalization. The reply made reference to the following statement, contained in the report of the Secretary-General:

"... within the framework of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that, 'Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized'. According to the norms and standards of international human rights law, such an international and social order is one that promotes the inherent dignity of the human person, respects the right of people to self-determination and seeks social progress through participatory development and by promoting equality and non-discrimination in a peaceful, interdependent and accountable world."

2. Venezuela noted that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

strengthened that international legal framework insofar as they established the primary responsibility of States for ensuring the effective realization of all human rights and their obligation to cooperate with each other in the economic field, on the basis of mutual benefit and with respect for the right to self-determination.

3. In that regard, the Bolivarian Republic stressed the importance of the role of the international community, through the United Nations, in dealing with the subject. It further referred to the changes produced by the globalization process mostly in science and technology, but also in the organization and division of labour, which had had a profound impact on all areas of human life, and not just on the economic sector. According to the reply, those changes had produced a new framework for relations within and among States and had deepened and redefined the old relations of dependence and domination.

4. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela further noted that terms such as "interdependence" and "integration in the international system" masked the prime characteristics of globalization, which were the establishment of a neo-colonialist process with new power blocs and bilateral and multilateral geopolitical strategies for the control of the world's resources. Venezuela also stated that such a process had been in some cases facilitated by the multilateral institutions and had resulted in misery and weakened States.

5. Moreover, the Member State submitted that human and natural disasters, and poverty and social exclusion were a result of a model of accumulation and development that had benefited the liberal elites of the North and South. The fact that human rights had been used as a tool for domination of the weaker States and peoples was also noted.

6. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated that major Powers and allied groups of countries rejected the differences among peoples and democratic systems with the aim of imposing a single value system, a single model of democracy and single economic model. It further stated that such rejection was sometimes the result of a false and simplistic, but equally perverse, idea that the call for recognition of differences concealed a desire by the developing or "different" countries to shirk their human rights obligations. Venezuela stated that such epithets simply served as more tools — a product of hegemonic globalization that sought to achieve its ends through the use of stigmatization — to crush the will of sovereign States defending their political, economic, cultural and religious systems. Venezuela noted that the aim was for the developing States, facing the "blame and shame" policy pursued by the United States and its allies — both State and non-State — to subjugate their sovereignty to hegemonic schemes.

7. In its reply, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela drew attention to the negative consequences of globalization on the human rights of migrants. It stated that, as a consequence of globalization, new groups and even xenophobic policies, and new forms of discrimination had emerged and rapidly grown. This was also the reason why extreme rightist ideology had reached new heights, with an increasingly disconcerting treatment of migration as a crime. This was in flagrant violation of the human rights of migrants, and was occurring in spite of the fact that the doctrine of liberalization claimed to call for the free movement of people. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted that this disregarded the significant contributions that migrants had made to different cultures in all aspects of human life, and not just the economic aspects.

8. In that connection, the European Parliament had recently adopted a directive which was repressive and violated the human rights of migrants, at a time when the European Union was negotiating major trade agreements with various regions, in particular Latin America and the Caribbean. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted that that revealed the economic bias of globalization and its lack of any vision of human rights.

9. The recent alarm caused by the world food crisis could not have demonstrated more clearly how the neoliberal capitalist economic order, which was attempting to expand and consolidate under globalization, converted even food into a merchandise, allowing profit maximization to jeopardize the right to food of the majority of the world's population, and in particular the 850 million people who suffered from hunger.

10. Against that background, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela emphasized the need to achieve international cooperation on the basis of the right to solidarity, and the duty incumbent upon States to cooperate with one another in accordance with principles of international law. In that connection, Venezuela noted the creation of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA), comprising Cuba, Dominica, Nicaragua and Venezuela, with the aim of establishing competitive advantages to compensate for the existing imbalance between the countries of the hemisphere, correcting the disparities that have traditionally been to the detriment of the weakest countries and creating consensus to foster endogenous development capable of eradicating poverty and substantially improving the quality of life of the peoples of the Americas.

11. Finally, the reply from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated that its submission was not based on the premise that dialogue was impossible with those who maintain that globalization must be understood as an irreconcilable conceptual dichotomy, and appealed to the international community and the competent United Nations bodies to continue to objectively and transparently assess the impact of globalization on the enjoyment of all human rights, placing the right to development at the centre of that assessment.

III. Replies received from United Nations organizations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

[Original: English]

[11 July 2008]

1. In its reply, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs stated that the goal of the international community to create just and equitable societies could not be achieved without ensuring the human rights of the disadvantaged, such as persons with disabilities. It further noted that the implementation of the adopted United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities, from the disability perspective of the universal human rights, could contribute to the multifaceted discourse on globalization and full enjoyment of human rights.

2. The Department made reference to the following three recurrent publications which related to the application of information technology by Governments and which, in the context of globalization, could have a potentially important impact on

the full enjoyment of human rights: the *United Nations E-Government Survey 2008* which assesses the e-government readiness of the Member States of the United Nations according to a quantitative composite index of e-readiness based on website assessment, telecommunication infrastructure, and human resource endowment; the *Compendium of Innovative E-Government Practices*, which is a compilation of recent case studies of innovative E-Government solutions, services and applications; and the *Compendium of ICT Applications on Electronic Government*, which is a collection of current ICT applications being used directly by or in partnership with Governments, governmental institutions and the private sector around the world to support administration and public service, while addressing governance challenges.

3. The Department highlighted its *World Economic and Social Survey*, which provided analyses of pressing long-term social and economic development issues, and noted that, according to the 2006 *Survey*, globalization had affected different countries or regions in different ways. It stated that in the industrialized world, the income level over the past five decades had grown steadily, while it has failed to do so in many developing countries, thereby causing a rise in already high world inequality. According to the 2006 *Survey*, while disparities in health and education among countries were not as wide as they used to be, the persistent disparities in health and education would remain sources of income inequality in the future.

4. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs made reference to the recent *World Economic and Social Survey 2008* on "Overcoming Economic Insecurity" which stated that a stable economic environment that was conducive to sustained development and the eradication of poverty was also key to building a more secure political environment. It added that, at the same time, political stability was necessary to encourage investment, including investment in human capital, spur economic growth and raise living conditions.

5. The Department referred to the annual report of the Secretary-General for the item of the Second Committee of the General Assembly dedicated to globalization and interdependence. In the 2007 report on impact of international commitments, policies and processes on the scope and the implementation of national development strategies, the Department made reference to key areas where global market forces, unleashed by economic liberalization, as well as international disciplines, rules, policies and processes, had an impact on the design and implementation of national development strategies.

6. In the 2006 report on the role of innovation, science and technology in pursuing development in the context of globalization, the Department stated that the multidimensional and key developmental role of science, technology and innovation was a major driving force of long-term economic growth and social well-being. It also emphasized that scientific and technological capacity required sound institutional-building as well as the nurturing of a complex network of partnerships among a wide variety of stakeholders spread across the globe.

7. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs also referred to its 2005 report on building institutions for achieving the development goals and integrating in the global economy, which addressed the institutional dimension of the challenges of integrating into the world economy and concluded that, whereas the role of markets was critical, it needed to be seen within the context of broader societal goals of social equity and environmental sustainability. According to the Department, the principal challenge facing developing countries was that of developing sound institutional foundations for the effective and efficient functioning of markets within the framework of their social and environmental objectives.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 August 2008
English
Original: Arabic/English/French/
Spanish

Sixty-third session

Item 75 of the provisional agenda*

**Criminal accountability of United Nations
officials and experts on mission**

Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 62/63 entitled "Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission". Sections II and III contain information received from Governments about the extent their national laws establish jurisdiction, particularly over crimes of a serious nature committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, as well as information on cooperation among States and with the United Nations in the exchange of information and the facilitation of investigations and prosecution of such individuals. Section IV provides information, prepared by the Secretariat, regarding bringing credible allegations that reveal that a crime may have been committed by United Nations officials to the attention of States against whose nationals such allegations are made. Sections V and VI detail recent activities by the Secretariat on ensuring that prospective experts on mission are informed of the expectation that they should meet high standards in their conduct and behaviour, as well as regarding taking other practical measures to strengthen existing training on United Nations standards of conduct, including through predeployment and in-mission induction training.

* A/63/150.



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	3
II. Establishment of jurisdiction over crimes of a serious nature	3
III. Cooperation between States and with the United Nations in the exchange of information and the facilitation of investigations and prosecutions.	11
IV. Bringing credible allegations that reveal that a crime may have been committed by United Nations officials to the attention of States against whose nationals such allegations are made	13
V. Ensuring that prospective experts on mission are informed of the expectation that they should meet high standards in their conduct and behaviour and will be held accountable for possible criminal conduct	16
VI. Taking other practical measures to strengthen existing training on United Nations standards of conduct, including through predeployment and in-mission induction training	17

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 62/63, entitled "Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution on the basis of information received from Governments, in particular with respect to paragraphs 3 and 9. The request was understood as not being limited to paragraphs 3 and 9, but also to include the implementation of those operative paragraphs which called for the taking of specific actions, either by Governments of Member States or by the Secretariat. Accordingly, the present report provides a synopsis of efforts undertaken to implement paragraphs 3 to 6, and 9 of resolution 62/63, on the basis of information received from Governments as well as that emanating from the Secretariat. Sections II to IV of the report deal with activities and information received relating to the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, as required by paragraphs 3, 4 and 9. The remaining sections cover activities undertaken by the Secretariat to implement paragraphs 5 and 6.

2. With regard to paragraphs 3 and 4, by a note verbale dated 31 December 2007, the Secretary-General drew the attention of all States to resolution 62/63 and requested them to submit, by 1 July 2008, information on the extent to which their national laws establish jurisdiction particularly over crimes of a serious nature committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, as well as information on cooperation among States and with the United Nations in the exchange of information and the facilitation of investigations and prosecutions of such individuals. As at 19 August 2008, replies were received from 28 States (as summarized in sects. II and III, below).

3. Furthermore, section IV provides information, prepared by the Secretariat, regarding the bringing of credible allegations that reveal that a crime may have been committed by United Nations officials to the attention of States against whose nationals such allegations are made, pursuant to paragraph 9. Sections V and VI detail recent activities by the Secretariat in ensuring that prospective experts on mission are informed of the expectation that they should meet high standards in their conduct and behaviour (resolution 62/63, para. 5), as well as regarding the taking of other practical measures to strengthen existing training on United Nations standards of conduct, including through predeployment and in-mission induction training (*ibid.*, para. 6).

II. Establishment of jurisdiction over crimes of a serious nature

4. **Argentina** referred to article 1 of the Argentine Penal Code, Law No. 11729, which establishes the fundamental principle that Argentine criminal law applies to offences committed in the national territory. This principle is complemented by the "effects" doctrine, or protective principle, whereby the State's criminal law applies to offences which, though not committed within its territory, nonetheless produce effects therein. Paragraph 2 of article 1 permits the Argentine State to apply its criminal law to offences committed outside its territory by persons performing official State functions. However, the provision would not apply to international civil servants, even if they have Argentine nationality, since they are not agents or employees of the Government.

5. **Australia** reported that, in 2003, the Crimes (Overseas) Act 1964 (the "Act") was amended to extend the criminal laws of Australia's Jervis Bay Territory extraterritorially for the purpose of criminalizing the behaviour of nationals serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission abroad. The Act provides jurisdiction over Australians who are immune from criminal prosecution in a foreign country by virtue of an agreement between Australia and the foreign country or between the United Nations (or United Nations organ) and the foreign country. To date, no prosecution under the Act has occurred.

6. Where Australian Defence Force personnel serve as United Nations officials or experts on mission (such as military observers), they are subject to a system of military discipline established by the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982, which has extraterritorial effect, thereby ensuring accountability at all times for Australian Defence Force personnel deployed outside Australia, including those engaged in United Nations roles. Australian military personnel are criminally accountable for a comprehensive range of offences. This is further enhanced by the inclusion of ancillary offences of attempt, incitement, conspiracy and accessory after the fact.

7. In **Austria**, the Austrian Criminal Code provides the legal basis for the jurisdiction of Austrian Courts regarding crimes committed by Austrian nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, where the conduct as defined in the Code constitutes a crime under the laws of the host State. The possibility of extraterritorial jurisdiction as, defined in sections 64 and 65 of the Austrian Criminal Code, is also recognized. All crimes under Austrian law committed by Austrian civil servants¹ in foreign countries are punishable, irrespective of whether or not they are punishable under the law of the State where they were committed.² Crimes committed abroad by Austrian nationals irrespective of their status as Austrian civil servants are punishable under Austrian law only if they are punishable under the law of the State where they were committed.³ Austrian criminal law is also applicable to: crimes committed abroad if Austria is obliged to prosecute them irrespective of the criminal law of the State where the crime was committed, to crimes committed abroad by an Austrian national against another Austrian national (if both have their domicile in Austria), to criminal acts of terrorism committed by an Austrian national abroad, or to the financing of terrorism if the perpetrator was an Austrian national.⁴

8. In **Belgium** the Code of Criminal Procedure provides that the judicial authorities are authorized to punish crimes of a serious nature committed by Belgian nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission outside the territory of the Kingdom. However, such jurisdiction varies according to the type of criminal conduct concerned or the category of person responsible for it. In general, the judicial authorities can prosecute any Belgian (or any person whose principal residence is in Belgium) if that individual is accused of an act defined as a crime or offence by Belgian law, provided that such act is punishable under the legislation of the country in which it was committed. Nonetheless, if the crime was committed against a foreigner, it can be prosecuted only at the request of the Public

¹ As a rule, Austrian nationals serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission are considered Austrian civil servants.

² Sect. 64 (1)(2).

³ Sect. 65.

⁴ Sect. 64 (6)-(10), respectively.

Prosecutor's Office and only after a complaint has been brought by the foreigner against whom the offence was committed or by his or her family, or after official notice is given to the Belgian authority by the authority of the country in which the criminal conduct took place. Certain crimes may be prosecuted without meeting such conditions. Belgian courts are also competent to hear cases of crimes committed abroad which fall under a rule of international treaty or international customary law or a rule of law derived from the European Union, where by reason of such rule Belgium is required, in any way whatsoever, to submit the case to its authorities responsible for criminal prosecutions. While such prosecutions are possible only if the accused is found in Belgium, in the case of certain crimes, the Belgian judicial authorities may institute proceedings whether or not the perpetrator is in Belgian territory. All persons subject to military law who have committed any offence in the territory of a foreign State may also be prosecuted in Belgium whether or not they are found in Belgian territory. The same applies to persons, Belgian or foreign, who are attached in any capacity to an army unit serving in foreign territory, or persons who are authorized to accompany troops of an army corps.

9. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** reported that, under article 12(c) of its Criminal Code, its criminal jurisdiction extends to any crime committed beyond its territory which it is obliged to prosecute under international law. Similarly, its criminal jurisdiction extends to crimes committed by its citizens outside its territory, including when serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission.

10. In **Brazil**, article 7.II.b. of the Penal Code⁵ establishes domestic jurisdiction over all crimes allegedly committed by Brazilian nationals, regardless of the place where the crime was committed and of the gravity of the alleged crime. It provides for the application of the internal criminal legislation to all nationals. Brazil also asserts jurisdiction over crimes which the country is obliged to combat under international conventions, even when the crime occurred in the territory of another State. Such provisions are applicable to all Brazilians, including those serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission.

11. **Canada**⁶ reported that while there has been some judicial extension of territorial jurisdiction to include cases where only part of an offence has taken place in Canada, or where there is some other real and substantial connection, the general rule, in line with its common law tradition, is to limit the application of Canada's criminal law to events occurring within Canada's territorial jurisdiction.

12. Exceptions to this principle are found in s. 7 of the Criminal Code and the Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes Act. Several such exceptions fulfil international legal obligations to prosecute the acts of Canadians committed outside Canada or to prosecute others accused of extraterritorial offences who are found in Canada. The other exceptions relate to the protection of Canada's essential interests, particularly with respect to offences in areas such as immigration law, the integrity of the Canadian passport and similar matters, as well as maintaining control over Canadian officials and military personnel working abroad. Accordingly, Canada would extend jurisdiction over crimes committed by Canadian nationals while

⁵ Statute 2848/1940, as amended by Statute 7209/1984.

⁶ A detailed exposition of the applicable Canadian law, as submitted by the Government of Canada, is on file with the Codification Division.

serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission only when they fall within one of those exceptions.

13. **Cyprus** reported that section 5 of its Criminal Code renders all Cypriot citizens criminally accountable for offences committed outside the territory of Cyprus, provided that those offences are punishable under penal laws of the Republic of Cyprus. Specifically, the Cyprus Criminal Code and any law that prescribes a criminal offence are applicable to all offences which have been committed in any foreign country by a Cypriot citizen if: (a) the offence is punishable in Cyprus by imprisonment that exceeds two years; and (b) the act or the omission constituting the offence is also criminalized under the law of the country in which it was committed. Furthermore, the applicability of the Cyprus Criminal Code and any other relevant penal law is established with respect to any person, irrespective of where the crime may be committed, in respect of a number of specific offences.⁷

14. In the **Czech Republic**, section 18 of the Criminal Code⁸ provides that the punishability of an act committed by a national of the Czech Republic or by a stateless person holding permanent residence status in the Czech Republic abroad shall be determined on the basis of the law of the Czech Republic. Where the Czech authorities take over a criminal investigation from another State, they determine the punishability of the act under Czech law (except in cases of traffic violations). Accordingly, it is irrelevant whether the act is punishable under the law of the State where it was committed.

15. **Estonia** reported that the Estonian Penal Code recognizes the right to exercise jurisdiction where a crime is committed outside its territory.

16. **Finland** reported that the Finnish Penal Code is largely applicable to offences committed by civilians outside Finland. The Penal Code is applicable when the perpetrator is a Finnish citizen, a person who was permanently resident in Finland at the time of the offence or is permanently resident in Finland at the beginning of the trial. The Penal Code is also applicable if the offence is directed at a citizen of Finland. In principle, while the conduct as defined in the law of the State establishing jurisdiction should also constitute a crime under the laws of the host State, many offences are considered international offences. Such international offences include sexual abuse of a child, genocide, torture and trafficking in human beings and a number of other offences established by international conventions binding on Finland.

17. In **Germany** there are various provisions in the German Criminal Code, expanding the application of German criminal law to various situations with a bearing upon foreign countries, so that criminal responsibility for German United Nations staff on mission is ensured. In section 5 of the Code, various offences are enumerated to which German criminal law applies, regardless of their commission abroad and independent of the laws of the country where the crime is committed. In addition, section 6, numbers 2 to 8 provide for the principle of universal jurisdiction by extending the application of German criminal law to cases dealing with international legally protected interests. The German international criminal code

⁷ A detailed exposition of the applicable Cypriot law, as submitted by the Government of Cyprus, is on file with the Codification Division.

⁸ Act No. 140/1960.

allows for prosecution of the most serious crimes against international law, such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, irrespective of being committed abroad or having a domestic nexus. Section 7 of the Code extends the applicability of German criminal law to offences committed by Germans abroad, should the offence be penalized in the country where it is committed, or should the site of the crime not be subject to any penal power.

18. **Greece** reported that article 6(1) of the Greek Penal Code establishes active personality as a basis for jurisdiction and stipulates that the Greek penal laws are applicable to any act that is regarded by Greek law as a felony or misdemeanor and was committed in a foreign country by a Greek national, to the extent that such act is punishable under the laws of that country or was committed in a territory without state organization.

19. Article 7(1) of the Greek Penal Code establishes passive personality as a further basis for jurisdiction by applying Greek penal laws to any act which is regarded by them as a felony or misdemeanor, and was committed abroad by a foreigner against a Greek citizen and provided that it is punishable under the laws of the country where it was committed or it was committed in a territory without state organization. Article 8 further establishes the principle of universal jurisdiction for a number of categories of crimes committed abroad,⁹ to the extent that it stipulates that Greek penal laws are applicable to nationals and foreigners alike, irrespective of the laws of the country where the act was committed.

20. Under article 3 of the Greek Military Penal Code, punishable acts committed by the armed forces which do not constitute military crimes are subject to common penal laws. Accordingly, the rules on extraterritorial application of Greek penal laws apply also to ordinary crimes committed abroad by members of the armed forces. Military crimes are punishable irrespective of the place they are committed.¹⁰

21. **Irish** law provides for extraterritorial criminal jurisdiction only in relation to a limited number of crimes and persons. Serious offences committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission against United Nations and associated personnel would in general be subject to Irish law. However, serious offences committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission against non-United Nations personnel in another State would not be prosecuted in Ireland. Further legislation would be required in order to expand the material and personal scope of Irish extraterritorial criminal jurisdiction.

22. In **Jordan** article 10 of the Penal Code (No. 16 of 1960), as amended, provides for exercise of jurisdiction: over any Jordanian who, as perpetrator, instigator or accomplice, commits, outside the Kingdom, a felony or misdemeanour punishable by Jordanian law; over crimes committed outside the Kingdom by any Jordanian official during or on the occasion of the exercise of his functions; over crimes committed outside the Kingdom by officials of the foreign service or by Jordanian consuls who do not enjoy immunity conferred on them by public international law; over any alien resident in the Kingdom who, as perpetrator, instigator or accomplice, commits, outside the Kingdom, a felony or misdemeanour punishable by Jordanian law, if his extradition has not been requested or accepted. The Penal

⁹ A complete list of categories, as submitted by the Government of Greece, is on file with the Codification Division.

¹⁰ Art. 4 of the Military Penal Code.

Code envisages, in article 13, the prosecution of any Jordanian even if he has been prosecuted and sentenced abroad. Furthermore, in Jordan, all public security personnel of all ranks who serve in peacekeeping missions (observers, military detachments, advisers) are subject to the Public Security Act and directives issued by the Directorate of Public Security.

23. **Kenya** reported that the Sexual Offences Act and the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act criminalize any act of sexual offence and corruption, respectively, committed within its territory. On the basis of the principle of territoriality, any crime committed within Kenya by any United Nations official or expert on mission would be tried locally, provided the domestic laws exist. For those crimes committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission within Kenya for which no domestic law exists, the accused would be extradited to his or her country. Kenya also applies the principle of nationality to prosecute its nationals who commit crimes outside Kenya while serving either as United Nations officials or experts on mission.

24. The Criminal Law of the **Republic of Korea** applies to those nationals who commit crimes outside its territory. The Military Criminal Law of the Republic of Korea applies to military personnel of the Republic of Korea who commit crimes outside its territory.

25. Pursuant to article 65(1) of the **Liechtenstein** Criminal Code, the Liechtenstein courts have jurisdiction over all criminal acts committed by citizens abroad if the conduct constitutes a crime under the laws of the host State. For a number of particularly serious offences, enumerated in article 64, dual criminality is not required. Accordingly, the Liechtenstein courts assert jurisdiction over crimes committed abroad by Liechtenstein nationals serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission.

26. In **New Zealand** the Armed Forces Discipline Act 1971 provides jurisdiction over all acts carried out by members of the New Zealand Defence Force whether in New Zealand or elsewhere, and applies equally to members of the New Zealand Defence Force who are members of a United Nations force. The United Nations (Police) Act 1964 provides for jurisdiction over members of the New Zealand Police forming part of a United Nations force. The Crimes and Misconduct (Overseas Operations) Act 2004 has the same effect, and applies to any person who is not a member of the armed forces and not already covered by the United Nations (Police) Act 1964 and is serving as part of an "overseas operations force" outside New Zealand.

27. New Zealand has no legislation that specifically provides for criminal jurisdiction to be taken over New Zealand nationals serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission. These individuals are, however, still subject to New Zealand law to the extent that it provides for extraterritorial jurisdiction for certain offences. In many cases extraterritorial jurisdiction is asserted in order to implement particular international obligations.

28. **Norway** reported that section 12(1)(3) of the Norwegian General Civil Penal Code of 1902 establishes jurisdiction over a wide range of serious crimes committed by Norwegian nationals abroad. Furthermore, Norwegian criminal law is applicable if the act is punishable pursuant to Norwegian law as well to the law of the country in which the act is committed. It is not required that Norwegian law and foreign law

be completely identical. The rules on jurisdiction under that provision apply to all Norwegian nationals, including Norwegians serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, as well as diplomats and other persons enjoying criminal immunity abroad. These rules are largely reaffirmed by a new Norwegian Penal Code (the Penal Code of 2005) which is being drafted. New provisions on jurisdiction have been adopted, but have not yet entered into force. Pursuant to section 5 of the Penal Code of 2005, Norwegian criminal legislation shall be applicable to certain acts committed by Norwegian nationals abroad when the acts are also punishable under the law of the country in which they are committed; are regarded as a war crime, genocide or a crime against humanity, are regarded as a breach of the international law of war, are regarded as a child marriage or a forced marriage, are regarded as genital mutilation, or are directed against the Norwegian State or a Norwegian State authority, or were committed outside the area of sovereignty of any State and are punishable by imprisonment. Section 6 of the Penal Code of 2005 extends the general rules of jurisdiction to apply to acts that Norway has a right or an obligation to prosecute under agreements with foreign States or under international law generally.¹¹

29. **Poland** reported that its nationals, including United Nations personnel or experts on mission who commit an offence in the course of fulfilling their mission abroad are subject to criminal liability under the rules laid down in chapter XII of the Polish Criminal Code on responsibility for offences committed abroad.

30. **Qatar** reported that the Penal Code of the State of Qatar, as stated in Law 11 of 2004, enacting the Penal Code, allows for the prosecution of perpetrators or accomplices for certain offences committed abroad (art. 17). Furthermore, any citizen of Qatar who has, while outside Qatar, committed an act that is considered a felony or misdemeanour under the Penal Code, shall, on returning to Qatar, be punished in accordance with the provisions of the Code if the act is punishable under the law of the country in which the act was committed (art. 18). Limitations on this provision are to be found in article 19 of the Penal Code.

31. Citizens of **Serbia** who, while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, commit a criminal offence punishable by the laws of the Republic of Serbia are accountable before a Serbian court of law. The laws of the Republic of Serbia, however, do not provide specific penalties for United Nations officials and experts on mission who are alleged to have committed crimes of a serious nature.

32. **South Africa** reported that, like other common law countries, it does not exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction on grounds of nationality. However, South Africa has taken measures to establish extraterritorial jurisdiction in certain circumstances. For example the Defence Act makes provision for criminal jurisdiction over military and civilian elements of its defence force deployed beyond South Africa. Similarly, legislation in the process of being drafted will assert jurisdiction over members of the South African Police Service who perform duties outside the Republic. Furthermore, an amendment to the Criminal Procedure Act, of 1977 was introduced in Parliament in 2008 with a view to enabling prosecution against South African nationals who committed serious offences while serving abroad. Likewise, the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters)

¹¹ A more detailed discussion of the position of Norway, as submitted by the Government of Norway, is on file with the Codification Division.

Amendment Act 32, of 2007, establishes extraterritorial jurisdiction over citizens and those ordinarily resident in the Republic who are alleged to have committed a sexual offence or other offence under the Act outside its borders.

33. **Switzerland** reported that articles 3 to 7 of the Swiss Criminal Code provide that prosecutions are not limited to persons who commit crimes and offences in Switzerland.¹² Crimes committed by Swiss nationals abroad are also covered when those crimes are punishable in the territory in which they have been committed or when the place where the act was committed does not fall under any criminal jurisdiction (Criminal Code, art. 7, para. 1). Swiss criminal law also establishes a limited universal jurisdiction that applies in the case of a series of specific crimes: in those instances, Swiss criminal courts are authorized to prosecute a foreign perpetrator who committed a crime abroad if that person is in Switzerland and has not been extradited (Criminal Code, arts. 5 and 6). The Criminal Code provisions are supplemented, in the case of certain categories of persons, by the provisions of the Military Criminal Code, particularly articles 3, 8 and 10. Accordingly, the Swiss judicial authorities are fully competent to prosecute its nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission.

34. **Tunisia** reported that its Criminal Code, section 305, provides that a Tunisian citizen may be prosecuted and placed on trial by Tunisian courts for a crime or misdemeanour committed outside the territory of the Republic that is punishable under Tunisian law, unless that crime is not punishable in the country in which it was committed, or the accused can show that he was definitively sentenced abroad and that the sentence has been served or has lapsed or that he has benefited from an amnesty. Accordingly, Tunisian nationals may be prosecuted for crimes which they committed abroad as United Nations officials or as experts on mission.

35. The **United States of America** reported that its nationals who commit crimes while working for the United Nations or when acting as experts on mission may be prosecuted under a broad array of statutes, even when those crimes are committed outside the United States. The United States also has jurisdiction generally to prosecute any federal crime where even a minor part of the crime was committed in the United States, and the bulk of the conduct was committed abroad. Such jurisdiction is particularly broad where a conspiracy of two or more people is involved, because an act by one conspirator in the United States can bring the entire conspiracy within United States criminal jurisdiction. Furthermore, under the Travel Act, any person who travels or uses a facility in foreign commerce (meaning between the United States and a foreign country) for the purpose of distributing the proceeds of unlawful activity or committing a crime of violence in furtherance of unlawful activity, or otherwise carrying on an unlawful activity, can be prosecuted in the United States. The United States also has jurisdiction over certain corruption-related offences even when most of the conduct takes place abroad.

36. **Yemen** reported that article 3 of its Penal Code adopts the territoriality principle with respect to crimes. The Penal Code also applies to crimes that are committed outside the State territory and concern the Yemeni courts, in accordance with the Law of Criminal Procedure.

¹² A detailed exposition of the applicable Swiss law, as submitted by the Government of Switzerland, is on file with the Codification Division.

III. Cooperation between States and with the United Nations in the exchange of information and the facilitation of investigations and prosecutions

37. **Argentina** observed that its judicial authorities would cooperate with the United Nations in the investigation of any offence committed by one of its officials or experts. The due process rights applicable to such proceedings would be those in force under Argentina's procedural law, in accordance with the rights and guarantees enshrined in the National Constitution and in international instruments having constitutional status, as enumerated in article 75, paragraph 22, of the Constitution.

38. **Australia** reported that legal cooperation with other countries to facilitate investigation of United Nations officials and experts on mission is covered by the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 1987, which allows Australia to request and provide mutual assistance to any country on a discretionary basis (such process is facilitated by 26 bilateral treaties and multilateral conventions to which Australia is a party that contain mutual assistance provisions), but not to international bodies such as the United Nations. Accordingly, any formal request from the United Nations to Australia for mutual assistance would need to be made through another country. No mutual assistance requests have yet been received from other States regarding the investigation of United Nations Officials or experts on mission. It is also possible for Australia to provide assistance informally, for example, the Australian Federal Police reports one instance of providing information to the United Nations regarding a complaint made against an Australian national deployed overseas as an expert on mission. Australia observed that it currently has bilateral extradition treaties with 35 countries.

39. **Belgium** indicated its willingness, subject to the relevant provisions of its domestic law, to exchange information and facilitate any investigations and prosecutions implicating United Nations officials and experts on mission who are alleged to have committed crimes of a serious nature.

40. **Brazil** reported that it had entered into a number of bilateral agreements on judicial cooperation and mutual assistance in criminal matters, and that it was willing to cooperate closely with the United Nations. It also noted that the principle of due process of law is enshrined in its Federal Constitution of 1988.

41. **Canada** reported that the Extradition Act allows and regularly authorizes the extradition of its citizens and residents to countries and international criminal tribunals with which it has concluded extradition treaties or in accordance with commitments made in multilateral treaties. Canada also provides assistance to other States and international tribunals in the investigation of crimes committed abroad or on its territory by persons subject to diplomatic or consular immunity. Various forms of cooperation could be extended pursuant to treaties, letters rogatory, and non-treaty requests.

42. The **Czech Republic** is a party to numerous multilateral and bilateral treaties concerning legal assistance in criminal matters. Furthermore, under section 376 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Act No. 141/1961), in the absence of an international treaty on cooperation in criminal matters, the essential condition for entering into such cooperation is reciprocity. Since the United Nations and its organs and agencies have legal personality, Czech law enforcement authorities

would be competent to accept requests, ask for information and use the evidence provided by the United Nations, but would not be competent to provide to the United Nations any information about ongoing investigations or court proceedings. The United Nations would merely be entitled to receive a copy of the judgement and reasoning. In investigating crimes, Czech authorities would communicate primarily with the judicial and investigating authorities of the State where the crime was committed. In addition, Czech rules of criminal procedure would not permit the United Nations Disciplinary Code or similar internal rules and regulations of the Organization to be applied in determining whether the act is punishable.

43. **Estonia** observed that the regulation of cooperation in criminal procedure, undertaken under the terms of its Code of Criminal Procedure (sects. 433-508), accords with the requirements of paragraph 4 of resolution 62/63.

44. **Finland** confirmed that, as a State member of the European Union, it is party to several multilateral agreements concerning the extradition of offenders in addition to the European Community legislation on the recognition of judgements and applicable law. Moreover, Finland has signed a number of bilateral agreements on the extradition of offenders with non-European Union States. Finland would welcome international efforts to create a common multilateral code of conduct for cases involving competing jurisdictions, which would be based on granting jurisdiction to the state of nationality, to the extent it is able to ensure the effectiveness of extradition procedures. It reiterated the fact that while it is possible to conduct investigations and trials in different States, evidence acquired by foreign authorities is not typically admissible in domestic courts.

45. **Greece** has concluded several bilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. In the absence of a treaty, requests for extradition or legal assistance are examined in accordance with relevant provisions of domestic law.

46. In **Jordan** there is ongoing cooperation between the United Nations and Jordanian public security units operating on missions to facilitate the investigation of personnel by the Directorate of Public Security.

47. **Kenya** has signed mutual legal assistance bilateral agreements with various countries so as to facilitate cooperation in criminal investigations and the possibility of extradition.

48. As of June 2008, the **Republic of Korea** has concluded 23 treaties on extradition and 18 treaties on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. Those treaties provide the legal framework for mutual cooperation in the exchange of information and the conduct of investigation or other necessary cooperative measures. In addition, in accordance with the Extradition Law and the Law on International Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, extradition and other mutual legal assistance may be undertaken on a reciprocal basis.

49. The **Liechtenstein** Law on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters provides a basis for Liechtenstein authorities to fully cooperate with all jurisdictions, even in the absence of a bilateral treaty.

50. **New Zealand** cooperates with other States in exchanging information and facilitating criminal investigations and prosecutions under the framework provided by the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 1992. The Act does not cover

mutual assistance between New Zealand and international organizations but it does not limit the ability of New Zealand authorities to assist and facilitate requests from the United Nations to the extent that assistance can be given under general New Zealand law. The New Zealand Government has in the past provided information to assist United Nations investigations, and will continue to do so as appropriate.

51. **Norway** reported that there are no economic or other obstacles to close cooperation with the relevant authorities in the country where the crimes in question are committed with regard to exchange of information and investigation.

52. In **Poland**, international cooperation in prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of offences committed during the performance of peacekeeping missions takes place in compliance with general rules, pursuant to the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Part XIII, chap. 62) on judicial assistance.

53. In **Qatar**, extradition is regulated by articles 409 and 410 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

54. **South Africa** proposed that a protocol of cooperation and liaison between Member States and the United Nations be developed to allow State investigators to work in concert with the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

55. In **Switzerland** judicial assistance and cooperation with other States is governed by numerous bilateral and multilateral agreements, while cooperation with the United Nations is covered by the relevant Headquarters Agreement.

56. **Tunisia** reported that sections 331 to 335 of the Tunisian Code of Criminal Procedure regulate cooperation with foreign States in order to facilitate investigation and prosecution and the exchange of information. Tunisia has also concluded bilateral agreements with other States on judicial cooperation regarding criminal matters.

57. In the **United States of America** the courts, as a matter of discretion, may provide assistance to foreign States, including compelled testimony and document production, as well as other information in response to letters rogatory. The United States has over 50 bilateral mutual legal assistance treaties that cover a wide array of serious crimes, and is also a party to numerous multilateral conventions that provide a legal basis for judicial assistance. The United States also has over 110 bilateral extradition treaties pursuant to which the United States can extradite offenders, including United States citizens, or request extradition. The list of extraditable offences is further expanded by various multilateral treaties where the requesting State is also a party to the relevant convention and has a bilateral extradition treaty with the United States.

IV. Bringing credible allegations that reveal that a crime may have been committed by United Nations officials to the attention of States against whose nationals such allegations are made

58. In order to give effect to Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations, which grants the Organization privileges and immunities and provides, inter alia, that "... officials of the Organization shall ... enjoy such privileges and immunities

as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organization", the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (hereinafter "the General Convention") on 13 February 1946, to which 154 Member States are parties. Under that treaty, officials are "immune from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official capacity" (sect. 18 (a)), and experts on mission enjoy "immunity from personal arrest or detention ..." and "in respect of words spoken or written and acts done by them in the course of the performance of their mission, immunity from legal process of every kind" (sect. 22 (a) and (b)). Senior officials at the rank of Assistant Secretary-General and above enjoy the same privileges and immunities as those accorded to diplomatic envoys (sect. 19), including immunity from criminal jurisdiction as provided in respect of diplomatic envoys under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, of 1961.

59. Certain types of agreements entered into between the Organization and Member States also grant privileges and immunities to the United Nations consistent with the Charter, such as headquarters agreements with host States, status-of-forces agreements and status-of-mission agreements. Some Member States hosting offices of the United Nations have adopted national laws and regulations that provide detailed arrangements for the application of the privileges and immunities of officials of the Organization in the national context. All these agreements are therefore sources of legal rules for determining the scope of privileges and immunities in the specific context of the host country.

Role of the Secretary-General

60. Pursuant to section 20 of the General Convention (in respect of officials) and section 23 (in respect of experts), the Secretary-General has the authority and the duty to waive immunity where, in his opinion, "immunity would impede the course of justice and it can be waived without prejudice to the interests of the United Nations". In the interest of maintaining the international character and the independence of personnel who serve in the United Nations, whether officials or experts on mission, and also to ensure that the provisions of the General Convention are applied in a consistent manner and in the interests of the Organization, the decision whether to waive immunity in any particular case is for the Secretary-General alone to make.

61. This was reaffirmed by the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion on the Difference relating to immunity from legal process of a Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights of 29 April 1999, which recognized that "the Secretary-General, as the chief administrative officer of the Organization, has the primary responsibility to safeguard the interests of the Organization; to that end, it is up to him to assess whether its agents acted within the scope of their functions and, where he so concludes, to protect these agents, including experts on mission, by asserting their immunity" (para. 60). Similarly, consistent with sections 20 and 23 of the General Convention, the Court reaffirmed that it is for the Secretary-General to determine whether the official or expert on mission acted within the scope of his or her functions.

62. Once the Secretary-General determines that the official or expert on mission acted outside the scope of his or her functions, unless the official in question enjoys privileges and immunities accorded to diplomatic envoys in accordance with

section 19 of the General Convention or pursuant to the relevant headquarters agreements, status-of-forces agreements or status-of-mission agreements, the official or expert on mission would not enjoy any immunity and a waiver would not be necessary.

63. The relevant terms and conditions of service contain provisions that clearly recall the purpose and scope of the privileges and immunities accorded to them and the accountability of such personnel in a manner consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and the General Convention.

Individuals having the status of officials and experts on mission

64. For the purposes of the privileges and immunities granted under the General Convention, the term "officials of the Organization" has been defined by the General Assembly, in its resolution 76 (I) of 7 December 1946 as "all members of the staff of the United Nations, with the exception of those who are recruited locally and are assigned the hourly rate". Therefore, all staff members of the United Nations, regardless of nationality, residence, place of recruitment or rank, are considered officials with the sole exception of those who are both recruited locally and assigned to hourly rates. Furthermore, United Nations Volunteers may enjoy privileges and immunities as "officials" of the United Nations when specifically provided for in agreements such as status-of-forces agreements and United Nations Development Programme standard basic assistance agreements.

65. Individuals having the status of "experts on mission" may include persons engaged by the Organization on a consultant/contractor contract or designated by United Nations organs to carry out missions or functions for the United Nations such as rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council or members of the International Law Commission. Furthermore, in the context of peacekeeping or peace support operations, some categories of personnel have the status of experts on mission. These include military observers, military liaison officers, military advisers, arms monitors, members of formed police units, seconded individual United Nations police and seconded corrections officers. The categories of personnel deemed experts on mission are usually provided in the relevant status-of-forces or status-of-mission agreements, although such categories are not always exhaustive.

Ensuring criminal accountability

66. It is the policy of the Secretariat that officials and experts on mission should be held accountable whenever they commit criminal acts not only because of the prejudice or harm caused to the victims but also because they undermine the work and image of the United Nations. To that effect, various measures have been put in place. For example, in the context of sexual exploitation and abuse, the Secretary-General promulgated in his bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 of 9 October 2003 that "[i]f, after proper investigation, there is evidence to support allegations of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse, these cases may, upon consultation with the Office of Legal Affairs, be referred to national authorities for criminal prosecution" (sect. 5).

Paragraph 9 of resolution 62/63

67. Given the legal issues involved in the referral to States of credible allegations that reveal a crime may have been committed, including issues related to the privileges and immunities of the United Nations under the General Convention, all

such cases are reviewed by the Office of Legal Affairs before a final determination is made on any particular referral. In reviewing such cases, the Office of Legal Affairs consults with the relevant programme managers as appropriate.

68. For purposes of the present report, the Office of Legal Affairs requested information relevant to the reporting requirements of paragraph 9 from all relevant Departments of the United Nations Secretariat as well as from all the programmes and funds of the United Nations. The following information covers the period from 6 December 2007, the date of adoption of the resolution, to 30 June 2008. It covers cases actually referred to States, and for reasons of confidentiality does not include cases under investigation, which could possibly result in a referral in the future, where the credibility of the allegations has not yet been established. The Organization will continue its policy of reviewing cases where there are credible allegations that reveal a crime may have been committed by its officials and experts on mission, and should it decide that referral to law enforcement authorities of the State of nationality is warranted in any such cases, appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the General Convention and General Assembly resolution 62/63.

Referrals in relation to officials

69. During the reporting period, credible allegations against two officials were referred by the United Nations to the State of nationality. One case related to an alleged procurement-related crime and another to an allegation of rape. Both officials were locally recruited and, therefore, the State of nationality and the territorial State was the same. As at the date of the preparation of the present report, the United Nations has not received any information from the relevant States on the action taken. No requests for assistance have been received by the Secretariat from the State in question.

Referrals in relation to experts on mission

70. During the reporting period, credible allegations against one expert on mission were referred by the United Nations to the State of nationality. This case related to an allegation that the expert on mission had raped a minor. The expert in question had already been repatriated to his State of nationality. No requests for assistance have been received by the Secretariat from the State in question.

V. Ensuring that prospective experts on mission are informed of the expectation that they should meet high standards in their conduct and behaviour and will be held accountable for possible criminal conduct

71. In February 2008, the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General addressed a memorandum to the heads of all departments, funds and programmes, bringing to their attention the terms of paragraph 5 of resolution 62/63, and urging them to take it into account when making the necessary requests for personnel to serve as experts on mission.

VI. Taking other practical measures to strengthen existing training on United Nations standards of conduct, including through predeployment and in-mission induction training

72. Pursuant to the Secretary-General's commitment to the zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support have developed a three-pronged strategy to address sexual exploitation and abuse, consisting of: mechanisms established to support the prevention of misconduct; enforcement of United Nations standards of conduct; and remedial action.¹³

73. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support have sought to ensure adherence to the United Nations code of conduct and related rules, Secretary-General's bulletins and administrative instructions. Among the prevention mechanisms established, since the beginning of 2006, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support have concentrated on training and awareness-raising activities.

74. In an effort to eradicate misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, the training of United Nations peacekeeping personnel is given priority. Training is considered particularly important given the frequent rotation of peacekeeping personnel, especially peacekeepers. The Conduct and Discipline Unit at Headquarters was established in 2005. The Conduct and Discipline Units were also established in 2005 in several missions and expanded to date to cover 24 Department of Peacekeeping Operations-led missions. Conduct and Discipline Units at Headquarters and in mission act both independently and collaboratively to facilitate training on misconduct for all categories of peacekeeping personnel. Likewise, UNDP trains personnel on United Nations standards of conduct, both at Headquarters and at the country-office level.

Capacity-building at Headquarters in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support

75. The Conduct and Discipline Unit at Headquarters, in coordination with the Integrated Training Service, produced three standardized modules on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse designed for all levels and categories of peacekeeping personnel. A generic training module entitled, "Module 1: Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse" is mandatory at induction for all peacekeeping personnel. In the light of particular responsibilities of mid-level peacekeeping personnel with regard to codes of conduct, a module was developed entitled "Combatting Sexual Exploitation and Abuse — Role of Mid-level Managers and Commanders". Recognizing the significant role that senior officials play in ensuring a zero-tolerance approach to misconduct, an additional module was developed entitled, "Combatting Sexual Exploitation and Abuse — Role of Senior Mission Leadership".

76. A documentary film, "To Serve with Pride: Zero Tolerance for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse", was jointly produced by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the Office for the

¹³ See also A/62/758 and A/60/682.

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Launched in December 2006, it is utilized in training sessions in peacekeeping operations and other United Nations duty stations.

77. The Conduct and Discipline Unit at Headquarters has organized a series of training sessions with Conduct and Discipline Unit officers in the field and practitioners from other United Nations departments and specialized agencies. The training provides an opportunity to orient new officers and refresh seasoned peacekeeping personnel on their roles as advisers and case officers with regard to current rules, guidance and procedures relevant to conduct and discipline. Annual workshops for the chiefs of the Conduct and Discipline Units are also held to share challenges and best practices and improve practices in field missions and Headquarters. Other Headquarters training has focused on specific initiatives, such as the roll-out of a misconduct tracking system, a secure, web-based system designed to record, track and report on allegations of misconduct by peacekeeping personnel.

78. In 2006, the Community of Practice on Conduct and Discipline was established, which is a knowledge-sharing initiative to link the Conduct and Discipline Units in peacekeeping missions as well as practitioners working in related fields. In 2007, the Conduct and Discipline Unit also established Internet and Intranet websites which provide relevant documents and information on conduct and discipline.

79. Additionally, the Conduct and Discipline Unit at Headquarters has coordinated and overseen initiatives in the field to raise awareness of the code of conduct. For example, in 2007, the Conduct and Discipline Unit at Headquarters held six field-based workshops to develop mission-specific strategies to support a communications campaign to combat prostitution and transactional sex.

80. The Conduct and Discipline Unit at Headquarters further trains potential and selected senior leaders in the Senior Mission Leadership course and Senior Leadership Induction programme, respectively, designed to better prepare heads of missions and other leaders. Additionally, the Unit provides frequent briefings on conduct and discipline matters to other departments.

81. The training sessions cover conduct and discipline issues, such as: the Conduct and Discipline Unit mandate; the code of conduct and core values; examples and consequences of misconduct and sexual exploitation and abuse; individual and management responsibilities; obligations for reporting; disciplinary and administrative procedures; and rights and responsibilities of staff members.

82. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/247, the Office of Internal Oversight Services Investigation Division has commenced development of a comprehensive investigation learning programme, designed to build the capacity of programme managers and other staff with investigative responsibilities outside the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Such training seeks to ensure the prompt and effective disposition of cases consistent with prevailing jurisprudence, investigative standards, and administrative requirements in the United Nations.

83. The Integrated Training Service has conducted several surveys and determined that training on sexual exploitation and abuse is consistently delivered at predeployment and in-mission induction training, and that more peacekeeping personnel attend the course on sexual exploitation and abuse than any other mandatory training course.

84. Since 2007, the UNDP Legal Support Office has been training staff on the United Nations standards of conduct and disciplinary procedures; and is in the process of developing an online legal training tool that will be accessible by all UNDP personnel.

Capacity-building in peacekeeping missions

85. In December 2007, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations mandated the training of a broad spectrum of cross-cutting issues to be provided to new staff as soon as possible after deployment to Department-led missions, including the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and other conduct and discipline issues. A previous instruction distributed to missions in August 2007 mandated the predeployment induction for all new civilian staff members recruited for missions. The strategy to integrate training and awareness-raising will build upon the training strategy that the Conduct and Discipline Units and other organizational units have already established in the field.

86. A significant percentage of all United Nations peacekeeping personnel in missions has been trained on sexual exploitation and abuse since it became mandatory in 2005. The Integrated Training Service in the United Nations Logistics Base, Brindisi, is responsible for compulsory civilian predeployment training. In-house Integrated Training Service trainers conduct induction courses approximately twice per month on a variety of topics, including on the code of conduct and sexual exploitation and abuse. All Conduct and Discipline Units are providing training to their respective missions on the United Nations standards of conduct, and other related topics such as sexual exploitation and abuse.

87. The Conduct and Discipline Units in mission, either alone or in close collaboration with the Integrated Mission Training Cell, are responsible for the substantive development of customized training materials to reflect the needs of the mission and cultural aspects of the host population. Some missions have sought to provide additional mission-specific material to complement their trainings. Many Conduct and Discipline Units develop training materials that are tailored to the specific type of training (induction or in-mission refresher training) and category of peacekeeping personnel, such as police officers and military liaison officers.

88. The Conduct and Discipline Units are also responsible for developing and implementing a mission-focused training strategy, conducting trainings, and raising awareness on issues related to misconduct. The Conduct and Discipline Units in the field regularly carry out scheduled induction and in-mission courses as well as train trainers in regional offices who can then conduct briefings on misconduct to others. Many missions have developed mission-tailored evaluations to measure the impact of the training provided. The Conduct and Discipline Units have also incorporated various local issues in their training to sensitize peacekeeping personnel about matters particular to the host country. Likewise, the UNDP Ethics Office has trained field staff on ethics in various regions.

89. Recognizing the importance of senior management in training and raising awareness of misconduct, the Conduct and Discipline Units in missions play a significant role in informing senior officials and heads of mission of their responsibilities as role models, presenting the most recent trends and analysis of misconduct, and advising necessary action pursuant to established codes of conduct.

Heads of mission routinely participate in briefings to specific audiences and town hall meetings.

90. In addition, mission-based awareness-raising initiatives are a significant part of the strategies of the Conduct and Discipline Units in mission to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. The units seek to raise awareness by reaching out to host populations, including local government officials, relevant civil society organizations, international organizations or non-governmental organizations.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 September 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session

Agenda item 73

**Criminal accountability of United Nations
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Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Iraq advised that paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 62/63 are applicable in Iraqi law under articles 10 and 12 of Iraqi criminal law No. 111 of 1969, and article 53 (b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, law No. 23 of 1971.

